

U.S. announces sanctions on Beijing

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States imposed economic sanctions against China Wednesday after concluding that Beijing had sold missile technology to Pakistan in violation of an international agreement. State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said the sanctions barred Chinese institutions, notably the Defence Ministry and its Space Research Ministry, from access to the U.S. market. Beijing was notified of the measures Wednesday, which could cost Chinese firms \$400 million to \$500 million in contracts, the spokesman said. U.S. officials Tuesday accused China of selling Pakistan M-11 missile technology in violation of the missile technology control regime. The set of international guidelines is aimed at limiting the spread of missile-related equipment. It bars sales of missiles with a range of more than 300 kilometres or a payload of more than 500 kilograms. The M-11 has a range of 480 kilometres and can be equipped with nuclear warheads. China and Pakistan repeatedly have said they are not violating the regime. China also says the M-11 does not fall under the missile regime.

(See earlier story on page 7)

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Assad resumes talks with Kuwait emir

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held a closed door meeting Wednesday with the emir of Kuwait who had returned from a short visit to Beirut, a presidential spokesman said. Talks between the two leaders were expected to focus on Kuwaiti investments, bilateral relations and Arab affairs. A previous closed door meeting between Mr. Assad and the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, took place Sunday. The emir ended his visit to Lebanon Tuesday after talks with Lebanese officials.

Heavy casualties in Kandahar fighting

ISLAMABAD (R) — Fierce fighting in Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar has left some 130 people dead and over 300 injured, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said Wednesday. Thousands of people were fleeing the area as a result of the clashes between Hezbe-Islami forces of Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Mujahideen-Islami supporters of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, APP said. The agency quoted reports reaching Quetta, provincial capital of south-western Baluchistan province bordering on Kandahar, but no confirmation was available for Afghan sources here.

U.S. will not check Chinese ship

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The U.S. Navy in the Gulf will stay away from inspecting a Chinese ship suspected of carrying chemical weapons ingredients for Iraq, a Chinese diplomat said Wednesday. A high-ranking Chinese delegation arrived in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday and was due to go to the eastern port of Dammam, where the 21,000-tonne Yinhe was expected to dock late Wednesday. The vessel will be inspected by Saudi Arabia and the Chinese delegation will be present. Zhai Jun, information attaché at the Chinese embassy in Riyadh, told AFP by telephone. Asked whether the U.S. Navy, which has been shadowing the Yinhe, would join the inspection, he said: "I do not think so. The agreement is that Saudi Arabia will carry out the inspection." He declined to elaborate on the agreement.

Islamic group claims suicide attack

CAIRO (AFP) — A Muslim militant claimed during a court appearance here Wednesday that two members of his organisation carried out a suicide bombing that wounded the Egyptian interior minister last week. During a military court appearance by 47 Islamic militants accused of forming a revolutionary organisation, one of the accused shouted out that the organisation, Talah Al Fatah (the Vanguard of the Conquest), carried out the attack last Wednesday in which five people were killed. While his co-accused shielded him to protect his identity, the man said that Nazih Noshri, minister of the interior, was killed. He said that he and his co-accused were in the area at the time of the attack. The accused also claimed that Mr. Noshri, himself, was killed by the police to stand trial with the others, was the head of Talah Al Fatah's military wing.

Israeli sneaks into Jordan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel asked Jordan to return an Israeli who stole across the border, apparently seeking adventure, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday. We are now working on arrangements to return him here," she said. Ofir Axelrod, 23, was missing from his Tel Aviv home for 10 days before his parents suspected he went to Jordan. Israeli media quoted his mother saying he had spoken in the past about visiting the ruins of Petra, the ancient Nabatean capital. Israel and Jordan are officially at war. Petra, carved in red stone, holds an allure for Israeli youths, some of whom have died trying to reach it. In recent years the governments of the two countries have cooperated in returning the adventurers.

Arafat concludes visit, heads for crucial talks

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Yasser Arafat, facing a mounting rebellion in Palestinian ranks against his leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), left Amman for Tunis yesterday to attend a crucial meeting of his organisation.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived here Tuesday and held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, huddled with his close aides for most of Wednesday plotting strategy to counter the increasing calls for his resignation as PLO chairman. Palestinian sources said.

The closed-door consultations appeared to have been focused on three different levels: the internal PLO crisis itself, the chaotic state of PLO finances and Jordanian-Palestinian differences on tactics in the 21-month-old Middle East peace process.

The political crisis stemmed from what many Palestinians see as the autocratic approach of Mr. Arafat to the peace process. Two prominent members of the 18-man PLO Executive Committee, veteran Shafiq Al Hout and renowned poet Mahmoud Darwish, have suspended their membership, and a third, independent Abdullah Hourani, was believed to be contemplating a similar move in Tunis (see pages 2 and 10).

The PLO officials as well as some of the negotiators themselves have complained over Mr. Arafat's handling of the peace process and what they see as continued Palestinian concessions in the negotiations, which have not made any real progress so far.

Also under fire is Mr. Arafat's sole control of PLO finances, which, in any event, have been dwindling since the Gulf crisis of 1990, when the oil-rich Gulf states suspended their assistance in retaliation for the PLO support for Iraq (see page 2).

One of the key people meeting with Mr. Arafat here Wednesday was Abdul Majed Shoman, chairman of the Arab Bank, who handles most of PLO investments and finances. Informed sources

said Mr. Arafat was appealing through Mr. Shoman, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), to rich Palestinians to step in and help with the financial crisis.

Mr. Arafat's problems appeared to mount Tuesday after King Hussein implicitly criticised him for not consulting Jordan prior to expressing acceptance of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. As part of an interim Palestinian self-rule arrangement.

Comments made by Prime Minister Majali after a round of talks with Mr. Arafat Tuesday also indicated that the meeting between King Hussein and the PLO chairman earlier in the day had not settled the differences in full.

Dr. Majali said: "The information on such an offer is still not concrete. So, to make a concrete decision, you have to have full information."

"Otherwise, you are treating things the morpheine type. Morpheine does not cure. Proper understanding of the problems makes the cure."

On his talks with the PLO chairman, the prime minister said:

"In such meetings, we try to put all points on the table and we try to analyse the negative and positive elements of every point."

"However, if we can make these stands absolutely one stand we do it. Otherwise we at least appreciate ... other people's point of views."

Mr. Arafat was specifically asked whether the King discussed with him the so-called Gaza-Jericho option.

He said: "We have discussed all the proposals. We function as one team, not two."

Describing his talks with the King as "very warm, constructive and very important," the PLO chairman added: "We hope to continue with the same attitude for the sake of our people. We have brotherly relations with Jordan. The Jordanians and Palestinians are one people..."

Visiting Mr. Arafat at the residence of the Palestinian ambassador

here was former Prime Minister Taber Al Masri, fuelling speculation that the former Amman deputy, who enjoys the confidence of King Hussein, was trying to heal the differences. Mr. Masri could not be reached for immediate comment.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat, who arrived here from the West Bank earlier on Wednesday, also visited Mr. Arafat.

Dr. Erakat, who had said prior to his departure from the occupied territories that he would discuss issues related to the next round of peace talks, was one of three Palestinian delegates who had threatened to resign in protest against Mr. Arafat's acceptance of American conditions in the peace process without consulting the negotiators. The resignation crisis was solved under an arrangement which guarantees consultations with the peace talks.

Mr. Arafat, who had met with several Amman-based members of the PNC, also held a meeting with members of the Fatah Central Committee. Participants in the meeting included Intissar Al Wazir, widow of assassinated PLO military commander and Fatah founder Khalil Al Wazir and head of the PLO's welfare fund which has been badly hit by the financial crunch of the organisation.

Others attending the meeting included Dr. Erakat and Nabil Amer, the former Palestinian representative in Moscow.

Mr. Arafat, accompanied by Mrs. Wazir, took time off from crisis talks to visit ailing PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh, who announced his resignation several months ago.

Sheikh Sayeh, who is bedridden, has indicated that his decision, which he attributed to ill-health as well as opposition to the course of the peace talks and Palestinian concessions, was final and that he would not change his mind.

Palestinian observers say the resignation of Sheikh Sayeh came as a shock to the PLO chairman since the elderly PNC speaker was considered one of his staunch supporters and confidantes.

Sheikh indicted in New York bombing

NEW YORK (AFP) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman was indicted Wednesday in the World Trade Centre blast that killed six people.

He is also accused of plotting to blow up other New York City landmarks including the United Nations, according to an indictment released here.

The indictment also charges Sheikh Abdul Rahman and three fellow defendants of conspiring to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a planned trip to the United States.

Al Sayyid Nosair, accused of killing radical Rabbi Meir Kahane, was indicted in connection with the plot, according to the indictment.

Palestinians, Israelis fear PLO fall-out

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian and Israeli leaders voiced fears Wednesday that fall-out from the unprecedented Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) crisis will upset the Middle East peace talks which resume in Washington next Tuesday.

Faisal Hussein, the top leader in the occupied territories, warned that the Palestinians would break off negotiations rather than be forced into concessions because of the emergency facing the PLO.

"If there is an idea that by financial pressure we will go to the negotiating table weakened, no," Mr. Hussein told AFP.

"More pressure on us will mean less flexibility," warned Mr. Hussein, chief of the Palestinian delegation to the talks.

"Such pressure ... will stop the whole peace process," he said. If the Israelis tried to exploit the crisis to win concessions, the Palestinians could pull out of the talks, he said.

A Senior Israeli official to the negotiations said: "We believe that the Palestinian delegation will come to Washington but it will be smaller than usual because of the financial crisis and will have trouble negotiating because of the political crisis."

Mr. Hussein goes to Tunis Thursday to see Chairman Yasser Arafat on the PLO's internal divisions and cash crisis. The PLO Executive Committee is to meet in the Tunisian capital the same day following the resignations of two leading members and a call for Mr. Arafat to stand down.

"The Israeli official, who asked not to be named, concluded: 'All this will inevitably delay the talks.'"

Housing Minister Binyamin Eliezer added: "We are not happy about this crisis. We would prefer the Palestinian side in the peace process to be united."

Mr. Hussein admitted the financial squeeze brought about by a drastic reduction in funding from Gulf states threatened PLO institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (see page 2) and called for international aid.

"The world must create an urgent budget for us to go on covering our institutions till the moment that authority will be transferred to us and we will start collecting our own taxes and customs," Mr. Hussein said.

But Mr. Hussein remained defiant: "If we will find ourselves in a position that we will be under pressure, forced to accept something that we don't want, simply we will leave this responsibility to other forces within the Palestinian people."

He said he meant those opposed to the process such as the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas.

"The aim is not the peace process, the aim is comprehensive peace," Mr. Hussein said.

The 11th round of bilateral discussions is due to start in Washington on Aug. 31.

Labour Deputy Ephraim Sneh, a close advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, commented: "If the Palestinian crisis deepens, Israel runs the risk of not having anyone to talk to."

Mr. Rabin noted on Tuesday that the financial trouble had weakened the PLO in the occupied territories where Hamas was assuming a greater social role.

But he predicted the crisis would blow over. "It's their problem, let them fight. I think that in the end they will come to an agreement."



King and Qaboos continue summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman continued talks Wednesday in Oman on ways and means to restore Arab solidarity. Jordan Television reported.

The two leaders also reviewed the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes

and efforts to unify Arab ranks, it said.

Sultan Qaboos and King Hussein, who arrived in the Omani summer capital of Salalah on Tuesday on a three-day visit, also discussed the Middle East peace process and further consolidating Jordanian-Omani relations.

PLO officials say Israel is willing for Gaza-Jericho 'mixed-model' proposal

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israel has sent clear signals it would seriously consider withdrawing from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as part of the proposed Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, highly-informed Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

"There will be two types of withdrawals: the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the withdrawal of Israeli military rule from the rest of the occupied territories," a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, and other PLO sources also said the organisation had received "positive signals" to this effect from the Israeli government and consider them as possible breakthrough and progress in the peace talks because they indicated a shift from previous Israeli positions.

The sources did not spell out the nature of the "signals" or who conveyed them, but it was believed that senior Israeli officials who have clandestinely met with PLO officials in recent weeks were the couriers.

"A few months back, the Israelis were ready to offer Palestinians self-rule in the Gaza Strip only. Then they accepted a complete pullout from the Strip," said the PLO

official. "Their latest position is withdrawal from the Gaza Strip as well as Jericho."

The so-called Gaza-Jericho first option, or the "mixed model," was first floated as an idea after the ninth round Israeli-Arab bilateral peace talks in April/May after the negotiations stalled over the issue of Jerusalem and the extent of Palestinian jurisdiction during the interim five-year self-rule period.

It was presented as a formal proposal in a Palestinian document handed over to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem during his regional trip this month.

The proposal is based on the implementation of "final status" arrangements in Gaza and Jericho while simultaneously carrying out interim arrangements in the West Bank according to the "mixed model," there will be two parallel Palestinian authority systems: One interim self-government in the West Bank and another fully administered by the PLO in Gaza and Jericho.

Under this formula, the West Bank and the areas (including the Gaza Strip and Jericho) will be merged as a single territorial unit after the five-year interim period, the sources said.

The idea was proposed to allay Palestinian concerns stemming from the absence of clear definition of "permanent status" arrangements for the occupied territories and the

Arabs say Israel a permanent threat

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab League has accused Israel of acquiring nuclear weapons and believes the Jewish state presents a permanent threat to Arab countries, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper reported Wednesday. The semi-official Al Itihad printed what it called a copy of a confidential study by the Cairo-based Arab League secretariat entitled "An Arab military strategy in face of military threats against the Arab Nation." It quoted the study as saying: The continuation of Israeli occupation of Arab land, its refusal to implement international resolutions and its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms, constitute a continuous threat to Arab countries. Another danger emanates from the influx of (Jewish) immigrants to Israel from all parts of the world as their number has reached 770,000 since 1959. This is coupled with its continuation in building settlements in defiance of the 1948 Geneva agreements and the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which calls on Israel to halt settlements and dismantle those under construction. It said Israel had built 144 settlements in the occupied Arab territories, accommodating 98,755 people. The study, according to Al Itihad, acknowledged Israel's superiority in both conventional and other weapons.

Majali expects peace breakthrough in 1995

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday expressed optimism over the 21-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks and said he expected a breakthrough in the negotiations by the end of the year.

In an interview with the Lebanese Al Mustaqbal Television, Dr. Majali said, there was a noticeable encouragement by the co-sponsors of the peace process to realise progress in the negotiations.

He said he had assurances from American President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher that progress would be achieved, but said "there are certain complications that require time to be overcome."

Dr. Majali stressed Jordan's commitment to a comprehensive solution and ruled out any separate agreement on the Jordanian-Israeli track if progress is not achieved on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese tracks of talks with the Jewish state.

In an answer to a question on the implications of the report discovered plot against the late of His Majesty King Hussein and his relation to the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP), which has been in the overthrowing of all Arab regimes and replacing them by a caliphate-like style of government. Dr. Majali said that the ILP was an illegal party that is not allowed to function in the country.

"Fortunately, the security forces were able to discover the plot before its taking place," he said.

On the recent amendment of the Election Law, Dr. Majali said that it was not directed at a particular party or group but that it was a normal procedure to be adopted at this time to ensure equality among Jordanians.

He said the amendment was introduced because the former Election Law was unconstitutional. He said that the Jordanian Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens regardless of sex, race or religion.

Islamists' decision on polls due today

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) is expected to decide today whether to participate in the Nov. 8 national elections after a week of infighting, and some contacts with the government, over the newly-announced one-person, one-vote electoral formula.

The IAF leadership had delayed the showdown with its 120-consultative council (majlis al shura) until tonight in the hope that the postponement would give its members time to "cool down" after the initial anger over the introduction of the new temporary law.

The tactic may well work since the majlis is expected to vote against boycott of the elections, but only after heated debate. The IAF had led an uproarious campaign against the replacement of the old bloc-voting Election Law with a one-person, one-vote system because it threatened to attenuate their strength in the 12th Parliament. The Muslim Brotherhood movement, the backbone of the IAF, was able to win 23 seats in the 1989 elections but is not expected to secure more than 17 seats after

the change.

Initial strong opposition to the new law, among IAF members as well as other political parties, dwindled considerably after His Majesty King Hussein put his weight behind the government's decision to change the law in an address to the nation on Aug. 17.

At the time, IAF sources said that the group has found itself divided over the interpretation of at least one passage in the speech in which the King made a direct reference to the front and called on it to live up to its name.

The "moderates" among the IAF leaders said that the direct reference to the front led them to believe that the King was appealing to the IAF not to boycott the elections and assuring the group of its political weight.

Since then, the moderates said they needed support from official circles to influence the "hawkish" elements within the front, who interpreted the King's speech as a direct threat aimed at making them fall in line.

The postponement in taking a final decision to contest the elections was apparently aimed at giving the government and the front time to work out an

agreement which could be used to sway the vote of the shura council members in favour of participation.

Although not officially confirmed, well-placed sources now say that such contacts have taken place both with the government of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali as well as others close to the Royal Court.

The sources, while not willing to reveal the exact details of the meetings, said that the government only reluctantly entered the dialogue, since "it was confident that the Islamists had no other practical options before them."

IAF sources would not confirm their meetings with the government, hinting only that they had a meeting with political personalities who are "close to the Royal Court."

They did not reveal the details of their meetings but appeared satisfied that the moderate wing has been strengthened ahead of tonight's vote.

The consultative council, elected in December 1992, is largely composed of Muslim Brotherhood members, and a few independent Islamists with close ties to the movement. Most of its members are considered "moderate" at least in wanting to avoid a confronta-

tion with the government.

But by putting its political weight behind the moderate camp, the government alone cannot be held responsible within the front for the low and accept the reduced strength of the Islamists in the next Parliament.

Although not confirmed by IAF sources, close observers of the front say that the outcome of tonight's vote will be also contingent on the collective weight of the strongest members among the front's candidates for the elections.

This may mean that moderates would have to make concessions that would tempt the "hawks" into not boycotting the elections.

Concessions on the "type" of candidates for the upcoming elections to appease "hawks" may have to be considered if enough votes are to be rallied in support of participation, some analysts believe.

"The IAF may decide to contest the elections to avoid an open confrontation with the government, but that may also mean that it would have to placate the 'hawks' among its members by increasing their percentage among its candidates," an observer maintained.

Palestine financial crisis stems from Gulf war

By Jack Redden
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Three years after Palestinians backed Iraq's in the Gulf crisis, the still-rising cost is evident everywhere from closed newspapers to near bankrupt universities.

The collapse in funds, a result of angry Gulf Arab states slashing aid and expatriate Palestinians losing jobs, has left local leaders squirming under what they feel is an economic siege.

That in turn has spurred a power struggle inside the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It has focused as much on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's handling of the financial crisis as his handling of peace talks with Israel. The heat is on Mr. Arafat — his Fateh commander in Lebanon says he should step down after 25 years at the helm of the PLO.

"Papers are closed, universities are in crisis, hospitals — all our national institutions," said Samir Abdullah, an economics professor at Al Najah University in the occupied West Bank and delegate to Middle East peace talks.

After expanding sharply in the years when money flowed into the PLO they had no alternative sources when Arab funds to the Tunis-based organisation abruptly stopped.

The freeze has continued long after the Gulf war, with Palestinians accusing rich pro-U.S. Arab states of withholding money until they make concessions to end the conflict with Israel.

Semir Huleileh, another economist in the peace talks, called it "The American siege."

The effect has been severe inside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where even before cuts per capita gross national product was only about \$1,300.

Estimates of the flow of funds — remittances by expatriates and Arab funds arriving via the PLO — vary widely,

especially since the PLO is illegal under Israeli law.

But Mr. Huleileh said funds channelled through the PLO, mainly from Arab states, had fallen from about \$300 million in 1989 to less than \$40 million this year.

In addition, he estimated direct remittances from Palestinians abroad fell from an annual \$400 million in the mid-1980s to \$250 million this year.

The collapse of PLO funds the closure of two Arab East Jerusalem newspapers this year, both money-losing fronts for Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement operated for political rather than economic reasons.

There have been much larger blows to the lives of the two million Palestinians in the occupied territories, many dependent on handouts from the PLO and relatives.

Mr. Huleileh said fresh cuts this month by the PLO included closing the social welfare department that gave monthly payments to a quarter of Palestinian families.

He said PLO aid for education and health was now "minimal," while that to political organisations had fallen 60 per cent and would likely be zero by the end of the year.

Universities have slashed support staff and many pay only partial salaries. They hope for direct foreign help, ignored when the PLO became the main backer in the 1970s.

"We can't reduce salaries further and we can't take more from the students," said Naim Abu Hommos, head of the council for higher education that oversees a near-bankrupt system of colleges and universities with 25,000 students.

In 1993 the money coming is about 20 per cent of what we should get — \$25 million is the budget of the universities and we are short about \$20 million," the U.S.-educated Abu Hommos said in the West Bank town of Ramallah before leaving on a fund-raising tour.

At a maternity hospital in Arab East Jerusalem, 81-year-

old S.M. Matuk has won time through an offer from the European Community (EC) to pay 60 per cent of staff costs at several hospitals for a year.

But extra community programmes have been abandoned and funds have dried up for Red Crescent societies in the occupied territories, which he heads.

"Before the Gulf war we got money to distribute to the branches," said the U.K.-educated doctor. "Now we get nothing, the branches are broke."

In villages of the occupied territories, medical workers complain of unpaid wages, a lack of facilities and reduced hours of clinics.

Dr. Shake Quazmi, working without electricity in the dreary village of Al Samu, said he has been on half salary — about \$200 a month — for eight months.

No one foresaw this disaster when Palestinians backed Iraq in the summer of 1990 and Mr. Arafat was shown on television bugging and kissing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Resentment at Kuwait's treatment of Palestinian workers and gloom at Iraqi threats to attack Israel overwhelmed the doubts.

Even when their leaders belatedly distanced themselves from Baghdad, the mass of the Palestinians population was delighted when Scud missiles slammed into Israel and hoped for an Iraqi victory in Kuwait.

Now, if the subject is discussed at all, Palestinians admit it was a mistake. In the careful words of one Palestinian leader: "It didn't come from wise thinking."

The mistake has cost them dearly and few see any prospect of improvement, convinced that Arab states will not loosen the purse strings until Washington sees concessions in the peace talks.

Their jobs in the Gulf are probably gone forever and Palestinian appeals for a financial display of Arab unity find few listeners.



VISITING SICK: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Fateh Central Committee member Rafiq Wazir, widow of assassinated Palestinian military commander Khalil Al Wazir, Wednesday at the residence of Sheikh Abdul Hamid Sayeh after visiting the ailing speaker of the Palestine National Council who has announced his resignation from the council (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alan)

U.S. to send Rangers to Somalia, says they will not be 'hit teams'

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — An elite force of 400 army soldiers trained to strike sensitive targets will head for Somalia this week. But the Pentagon said their mission is not to nab warlord Mohammed Farrah Aideed.

"This is not an effort to go after one man," Kathleen Delaski, a Pentagon spokeswoman said. "It's an effort to improve the overall situation in Mogadishu."

Even so, the army rangers' special training gives them the kinds of skills in unconventional warfare that would be required to flush out Gen. Aideed, who has been waging a hit-and-run war with United Nations forces for months.

The U.N. called for Gen. Aideed's arrest in June after an ambush blamed on his militia killed 24 Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers, but the warlord has managed to elude capture.

"Capturing Aideed is not the only way to improve security," Ms. Delaski said, adding that the deployment does not represent a change in U.S. policy.

The decision to send more U.S. troops to Somalia stands in contrast to expectations just a few months ago that some U.S. forces would start heading home soon. Some in Congress have questioned the wisdom of extending the U.S. and U.N. mission from ending Somalia's starvation to rebuilding the country.

Dan Goure, a political-military specialist at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said he interpreted the decision to send army Rangers as a signal that the Clinton administration foresees no quick exit from Somalia.

"We look to be in this for the long haul now — and a very long haul I think it is going to be," Mr. Goure said. "It's a signal that you intend to stay."

About 4,000 U.S. troops, mostly logistics specialists, are in Somalia as part of a 25,000-man U.N. peacekeeping force. The intervention began last December with the landing of U.N. marines in Mogadishu. The U.N. assumed military command last May.

Ms. Delaski said 400 Rangers would head out from their base "in the next few days." They give a substantial extra punch to the 1,200-man U.S. "Quick Reaction Force" already in Mogadishu to protect U.N. peacekeepers.

The American contingent has increasingly become a target of Somali guerrilla violence. In the latest incident last Sunday, six Americans were slightly injured

when their supply truck hit a remote-controlled bomb on one of the busiest roads in Mogadishu. Four Americans were killed in a similar attack Aug. 8.

David Johnson, director of the State Department's press office, said the security situation in southern Mogadishu, Gen. Aideed's stronghold, had deteriorated to the point that restoring economic and political stability has become tenuous.

"A credible and rapidly deployable force was needed on the ground, and the Rangers are ideal for this mission," Ms. Delaski said.

Rangers are light infantry trained to conduct special military operations in all types of terrain and weather. They can infiltrate a target area and conduct a quick, intense assault, as they did in operations just outside Panama in 1989, or they can parachute into an area and rescue friendly forces.

An army reference pamphlet on its special operations forces says one of the Rangers' capabilities is to conduct strike operations such as raids against targets behind enemy lines, including nuclear storage sites, missile sites or "key enemy military-political personnel or resources."

They are trained to fight at night and in close-quarters conditions such as in cities.

Ms. Delaski said the Rangers will be equipped with personal weapons such as M-16 machine guns and M-16 rifles, as well as mortars and anti-tank rifles. She declined to say more about their weaponry, although other officials said they often work in tandem with specially equipped helicopters and other aircraft.

"It certainly should not be viewed as hit teams," Ms. Delaski said in response to persistent questions on Gen. Aideed.

"This deployment is not a policy change," she said, rejecting suggestions that the Rangers would be the logical unit to take on the mission of capturing or killing Gen. Aideed.

A State Department spokesman also said the task force's mission is to help calm violence so that food and other humanitarian aid can be distributed.

"Until this problem is dealt with successfully, the progress made on economic and political issues will remain tenuous," spokesman David Johnson said.

"U.S. troops, including the Rangers, are a key element in the U.N.'s effort to resolve this matter."

Dialogues planned in Mogadishu the United Nations said it would open talks with representatives of Gen. Aideed.

But Gen. Aideed and some other top leaders of the Somali National Alliance-United Somali Congress will not be included and little is expected to come from the negotiations.

Gen. Aideed's faction sent a letter to the U.N. headquarters in Mogadishu expressing a desire "to immediately enter into dialogue," Farouk Mawlawi, a U.N. spokesman, told reporters.

Mawlawi said Lansana Koryate, the U.N.'s deputy special envoy to Somalia, would be travelling in the country's north-east for the next four days "and we cannot expect the talks to start before next Sunday."

Asked if that suggested that the United Nations placed little priority on the talks, Mr. Mawlawi said, "not at all. We also acknowledged that talks have been held in the past with lower ranking representatives of Gen. Aideed's faction."

Nothing has come of those talks.

Jonathan Howe, the U.N.'s special envoy and Mr. Koryate's boss, has ruled out any negotiations with Gen. Aideed and several of his closest colleagues. Some observers saw the talks with Gen. Aideed's underlings as an attempt to split the faction.

French to quit

France said Wednesday it would pull its 1,100 peacekeepers out of Somalia by the end of next January.

Defence Minister Francois Leonard told French radio that Paris would withdraw its forces from both Somalia and Cambodia.

"We have decided to pull out our contingents from Cambodia — this is normal — by the end of this year, and from Somalia approximately in January 1994," he said.

He said the United Nations had been informed.

France has 1,100 men in the 21,000-strong U.N. force in Somalia. It was 1,500 men in the 20,000-strong Cambodia force which started a gradual pullout last month.

Mr. Leonard said the French soldiers would pull out as operations in both countries were drawing to a close. He did not spell out why he thought the peacekeeping operation in Somalia could be phased out.

"We had indicated that we would not be in Somalia for an indefinite period," a foreign ministry spokesman told reporters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blast kills two children in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — A rocket blast in a Baghdad suburb Tuesday killed two children and seriously injured two others. Baghdad newspapers reported Wednesday. "The explosion of a rocket yesterday in Saddam City resulted in the death of two children and the wounding of two others very seriously," the newspapers said. The press said the blast was the result of "an old rocket thrown in the garbage... in a side road in the town." The newspapers said the rocket went off when one of the children started "playing with it as it resembled a small ball." Saddam City, one of Baghdad's poorest districts, is home to about one million people. The two injured children were in critical condition, the papers said quoting hospital sources. No one was blamed for the explosion but the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said in a related comment: "There is no end to the savagery of the enemies." Iraq blamed Iran for a car bomb explosion in central Baghdad on Aug. 4. The bomb injured five pedestrians.

Moroccan writer Lahbabi dies

RABAT (AP) — Mohammad Aziz Lahbabi, who was nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature, has died, Moroccan officials said Tuesday. Mr. Lahbabi died Monday after what was described as a long illness, a phrase often used to refer to cancer. He was more than 70. His exact age was unclear. He was buried Tuesday at Rabat's Chouhadas (martyrs) cemetery. Mr. Lahbabi published numerous philosophical and literary works in Arabic and French that were later translated into other languages. Among them are "Realistic Personalism," "Muslim Personalism," "Liberty or Liberation" and "The World of Tomorrow." In 1987, he was nominated for a Nobel Prize in literature. The following year, Egypt's Neguib Mahfouz received the Nobel which eluded Mr. Lahbabi. Mr. Lahbabi was a former president of Morocco's Union of Writers and former dean of the faculty of letters at the University of Rabat. He was a member of the Royal Academy of Morocco. Details on survivors were not available.

Israeli border guard shot by mistake

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli border guard was shot and wounded Tuesday evening when Israeli soldiers mistook him for a Palestinian and opened fire, a military spokesman said here. The incident occurred near the Rafah cemetery, in the occupied Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources had earlier said an Israeli soldier was wounded and evacuated by helicopter after his patrol came under fire from unidentified men. Four Palestinians were also wounded Tuesday in the Gaza Strip when Israeli soldiers fired on demonstrators throwing stones at the Shati camp, Palestinian sources said.

Torah scrolls from Lebanon sent to Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Fifty scrolls of the Jewish holy scripture, the Torah, which were sent from Lebanon to other countries, are now on their way to Israel, the chief rabbi of Israel's Sephardic Jews Eliahu Bakshi said. The scrolls were originally kept in ancient synagogues and Jewish religious institutions in Lebanon. There are only about 100 Jews remaining in Lebanon, and the community's synagogues have been secularised. Twenty years ago there were estimated to be more than 10,000 Jews in Lebanon.

Iran to pay for medicine imports faster

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, struggling with a balance of payments problem, is giving priority to paying its debts to foreign pharmaceutical companies to help overcome an acute medicine shortage, officials said Tuesday. Health Minister Alireza Marandi, explaining a 65 per cent rise in medicine prices announced this month, said on Tehran Radio the government has taken a series of decisions to ease the situation which has caused widespread discontent. The government ordered the central bank to pay up faster for medicine-related imports to ensure their smooth flow after foreign companies held up deliveries. Iranian banks fell behind in payments, he said. A central bank official said it was opening letters of credit directly for medicine imports or confirming letters opened by state banks, as demanded by pharmaceutical companies. "The delay in paying up letters of credit for medicine imports is perhaps half of the six to seven months we have for other sectors," he told Reuters by telephone from Tehran. He declined to give the amounts involved. Mr. ... said the central bank would provide 200 billion rials (\$1.1 billion) in loans to drug manufacturers and importers whose expenses have increased "astronomically" since the rial was devalued by up to 95 per cent in March.

Cholera claims 50 lives in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (AFP) — A cholera epidemic in Djibouti has claimed at least 50 lives since mid-July, the health ministry said here Wednesday. It said the death toll could be higher because some families were burying victims who had not been notified to the health authorities. The ministry said 3,284 cases had been registered in three districts of the capital (population 317,000). About 1,000 of them are being treated in a field hospital set up beside the town's main hospital by a French military medical team sent in at the government's request.

U.N. fears more Sudanese will flee to Uganda

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations said Wednesday it feared heavy fighting in southern Sudan could force tens of thousands more refugees across into Uganda, where about 100,000 Sudanese have fled this month. Fifty-seven refugees have died from an outbreak of measles in Koboko transit centre in northwestern Uganda, where 38,000 refugees were under care, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said. The death toll included 38 children. The U.N. agency has asked Doctors Without Borders-Holland and German-based Action Africa in need to step up anti-measles vaccinations among the refugees who were said to be in relatively good health. "Heavy fighting could prompt tens of thousands more refugees to flee into Uganda," UNHCR said in a statement. "The population affected by the fighting is estimated to be over 500,000." On Tuesday, Ahmad Sayed Farah, UNHCR representative in Uganda, said a tide of people had spilled across the border in recent days, swelling the total this month to around 98,000.

Fall-out feared

(Continued from page 1)

Strip and the West Bank town would only further delay a final settlement for the territories and cause grave administrative problems over separate parcels of land.

Mr. Hussein said Wednesday that the Gaza-Jericho option had not yet been "crystallised."

Meanwhile Israel has begun looking to a post-Arafat period. The foreign ministry held a meeting Wednesday on the topic "the future of Yasser Arafat as a Palestinian leader," a spokesman said.

Speakers questioned whether Israel should strengthen Mr. Arafat by opening direct dialogue with the PLO. Israel has agreed to talk only to a delegation from the territories, even if it takes orders from the PLO.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi spoke optimistically on Tuesday of a "new course" in negotiations with Israel and said a number of ideas on the agenda could unlock an impasse.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday Israelis and Palestinians were close to signing out a package deal that would speed along a peace agreement.

Dr. Ashrawi told Israel Television in an interview the package agreement was not ready yet.

Israeli 'signals' reported

(Continued from page 1)

of the Israeli military administration will be transferred. Then the elected Palestinian authority and the Gaza-Jericho government will set up ties pending the full Israeli withdrawal and the merger of the Palestinian territories into one unit.

PLO officials said the proposal was discussed with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdull Salam Al Majali in the past two days.

Some Jordanian officials said Jordan was upset with the picture over the developments over the Gaza-Jericho option despite the direct effects such an arrangement would have on Jordan itself. They said the possible inter-Palestinian troubles in Gaza and Jericho might spill over to Jordan.

"We thought there were Israeli-Palestinian agreements concerning the Gaza-Jericho plan, and we cannot accept being the last to know about something that might jeopardise our stability and directly affects us," said one Jordanian official.

"We are not consulted on the issues, but we were expected to agree to it," said the official.

Furthermore, recent Jordanian sensitivities with the PLO emerged from a feeling that the organisation was not serious in coordinating closely with Jordan despite the formation of six joint committees in July and the agreement that the panels would meet immediately.

The PLO's delay in naming the Palestinian sides to the committees and setting a date for their meeting was also another source of concern expressed by Jordanian officials.

Early this week, King Hussein criticised the lack of close coordination on the part of the PLO, whether related to the work of the joint committees or the lack of consultations on the Gaza-Jericho issue.

A PLO official said Mr. Arafat's visit this week was to allay Jordanian fears, assure the Kingdom that no deals were struck under the table and to explain the objectives behind the PLO's Gaza-Jericho proposal and developments related to the issue.

"It was only an idea floated by the PLO and the only Israeli response was received very recently," said the PLO official.

He said the PLO's internal crises delayed Mr. Arafat's visit and the delay in convening the joint committees.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif el Hercule

17:45 Pif el Hercule

18:15 Pif el Hercule

18:45 Pif el Hercule

19:15 Pif el Hercule

19:45 Pif el Hercule

20:15 Pif el Hercule

20:45 Pif el Hercule

21:15 Pif el Hercule

21:45 Pif el Hercule

22:15 Pif el Hercule

22:45 Pif el Hercule

23:15 Pif el Hercule

23:45 Pif el Hercule

Movie of the Week: "Lethal Exposure"

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr

05:00 (Sunrise) Duha

06:00 Dhur

12:15 'Asr

15:15 Maghreb

18:30 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637783

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637540

St. Salla Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assyrian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 628634, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northeasterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 18/31

Agaba 25/38

Deserts 15/33

Jordan Valley 24/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Agaba 20 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730

Dr. Jamal Al Jabari 796460

Dr. Youssef Nasar 751144

Dr. Mohammad Amer 588883

Firas pharmacy 661912

Al Asma pharmacy 773336

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 6, 6730

Yacoub pharmacy 449495

Shmeisani pharmacy 57660

Najib pharmacy 476332

RRID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773

Al Ouds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Isma Al Omari 901266

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

NEW ART GALLERY INAUGURATED: Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurates the opening of the Darat al-Funun "small house of the arts" Wednesday and is escorted by Mr. Saba Shoman (right). The Queen was received by Their Highnesses Prince Ra'ed and Princess Majida Ra'ed, Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Mr. Abdul Majed Shoman, Mr. and Mrs. Khaled Shoman, Dr. Asaad Abdul Rahman and members of the board of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and the Arab Bank. A project of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, the gallery aims at being a dynamic and multi-disciplinary institution, dedicated to the promotion of fine arts while fostering cultural and creative dialogue regionally and internationally. It is housed in an old residence built by the Hmoud family in the 1930s, which was renovated in its original form by architect Ammar Khammash. The remains of a Byzantine church are located in the garden of Darat al-Funun, which are currently being investigated to reconstruct its history by Mr. Pierre Bikai, the director of American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR), in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities. The gallery serves the dual function of preserving the country's heritage and cultural identity, in addition to enhancing art appreciation for future generations. (See related story on page 5) (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)



PSD to spot check motorists, vehicles

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) will start a nation-wide campaign to ensure that cars and various other vehicles are road-worthy and that the drivers abide by traffic regulations.

The campaign, which is to start on Sept. 4, will also include strict monitoring of motorists for traffic violations and causing accidents, as well as vehicles which cause damage to the environment or are considered harmful to public safety, said the announcement.

The PSD said that it has already started an information and media campaign to draw motorists' attention to the need to have their vehicles inspected and repaired and also to ensure that vehicles do not contribute to pollution or endanger the environment by emitting poisonous smoke above the permitted levels.

It said that the awareness campaign, which started Saturday, will continue until Sept. 4, when the actual inspection drive is due to start.

In its announcement, the PSD said it hoped that motorists will respond favourably to the call and heed the advice to fasten their seat belts which it said provide safety for the driver and passengers in the event of an accident.

International community fails to respect ratified laws in war zones, ICRC says

Jordan to keep low profile at human rights conference

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While 181 countries ratified the four Geneva conventions guiding international human rights regulations more than 40 years ago, little attention has been paid by the international community to the implementation and respect of these laws during this period especially vis-à-vis the protection of the rapidly-increasing number of war victims whether civilians, prisoners of war or sick and wounded, according to human rights experts.

The failure of almost all countries to respect these laws is expected to be the main focus of the international Geneva conference due to be held Aug. 30. The conference, which will be attended by more than 110 countries, will seek primarily to find suitable ways and means to ensure the governments' adherence to signed agreements concerning the protection of victims of war.

"As a whole, the international community is not shouldering its responsibility," said Michel Ducraux, head of the delegation of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Jordan, at a press conference here Wednesday. "The question now is not to change the law or to find another mechanism but to make countries implement it."

The four Geneva conventions of 1949 were set by the Diplomatic Conference for the Establishment of International Conventions for the Protection of Victims of War, convened by the Swiss Federal Council and attended by 63 governments. They include the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field; the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea; the Treatment of Prisoners of War; and the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Dr. Ducraux, told reporters that the three-day Geneva conference will not earmark specific situations in certain countries — such as the current events in former Yugoslavia — "but will remain general for efficiency purposes."

"The goal is to draw the attention of decision-makers to the violations of humanitarian law and their implications," Mr. Ducraux said adding that there are war zones in 56 countries at this time. "I don't have a rough estimate (of war victims) but one can say without hesitation there are millions and millions of them everywhere."

Human rights experts in Jordan point out that the Geneva conference is of special value to countries in the region. "Such a conference," one expert said, "should be given adequate attention since it touches upon one of our most pressing concerns."

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Jordan will be represented at the conference by a diplomat from its mission in Switzerland and does not intend to send an official Jordanian delegation to the Geneva meeting.

ICRC sources said that an invitation was sent a month ago. Another expert questioned the Kingdom's decision to send a high-profile delegation to the human rights conference held in Vienna in June, but taking a completely different position towards the Geneva meeting.

"The Geneva conference is of more importance, I would have thought," he said.

The draft declaration prepared by government experts in the April meeting in Geneva requires signatory states to apply, clarify and where necessary, to develop the existing law in order to ensure true protection for victims of war.

In the draft declaration, the participants in the international conference declare that:

- They refuse to accept that wounded are shown no mercy, children massacred, women raped, prisoners tortured, victims denied elementary humanitarian assistance, populations illegally displaced and countries laid to waste.
- They refuse to accept that, as long as war itself has not been eradicated, international rule and obligations aimed at limiting the suffering caused by armed conflicts are deliberately and constantly violated.
- They refuse to accept that civilian populations should become more and more frequently the principal victims or even the target of hostilities and acts of violence perpetrated in the course of armed conflicts.

— They note that the means and methods used in the conduct of hostilities during non-international armed conflicts very often cause heavy suffering.

— They affirm the necessity to call upon the peoples of the world to resist the temptation to isolate themselves from each other and the need to reinforce the bond of solidarity that must unite mankind against the tragedy of war.

— They undertake to strive, in cooperation with the United Nations and conformity with its charter, in situations of serious violations of the rights of protected persons, for the adoption of all appropriate measures to ensure respect for international humanitarian law.

— They affirm the need to ensure, through measures at the national and international levels, the personal safety and security of those providing assistance to victims of armed conflicts and the obligation of the parties to the conflict to respect the integrity of the members of peace-keeping forces.

The draft declaration which calls upon the signatory states to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law to preserve the rights of the victims of war, also calls upon states to affirm that, by preserving a spirit of humanity in the midst of armed conflicts, international humanitarian law keeps open the road to reconciliation, facilitates the restoration of peace between the belligerents, and fosters harmony between all peoples.

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Al Jeel Al Jadeed Club to present 'The Eternal Torch'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Al Jeel Al Jadeed or the New Generation Club of the Circassian community celebrates the 1st anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne in its own way.

Dances by 160 young men and women will be performed to group, duet and solo vignettes set in life-size stage display of a Circassian village.

The show, entitled "The Eternal Torch," is an expression of appreciation by the participants and the Circassian community in Jordan for the country and its Hashemite leadership.

The dances include the combat-style environment during the period that the Circassians fought for their survival against the Imperial Russian invaders of their homeland at the end of the 19th century, to dancing tableaux that depict the peasant life-style of the Circassians, youth festivities and sports competitions, young love and inevitable romantic rivalry, and community gatherings that explain the social and cultural fabric of the Circassians.

The accompanying music is based on traditional Circassian tunes, performed by young musicians who are making use of all the most up-to-date electronic and computerised musical equipment available in Jordan.

Al Jeel Al Jadeed Folklore Troupe has represented Jordan at numerous international events.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshelita Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- SHOWS**
- ★ New art gallery, "Darat al-Funun," of the Abdul Majed Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Luweibeh.
 - ★ Play entitled "Crescent Night" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
 - ★ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of dances performances by Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle.
- FILMS**
- ★ Film entitled: "Escape to Witch Mountain" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

Majali urges information ministry to be impartial in election process

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday requested the Ministry of Information to be totally impartial in the coming parliamentary election and help ensure a free and fair voting process.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and officials of government information services departments Wednesday review prominent media issues (Petra photo)

Speaking during a visit to the information ministry where he attended part of a regular meeting by heads of departments with Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar, Dr. Majali said all the information services in Jordan should remain absolutely neutral, not only in the Nov. 8 election process, but also during the election campaign period preceding election day.

Discussions at the meeting covered the parliamentary election, the Middle East peace process and the role of the official information services in dealing with these issues.

The prime minister urged these services to perform their duties objectively and credibly thus enhancing the democratic process in the Kingdom.

Referring to the Middle East peace talk, which are due to resume at the end of August, Dr. Majali reaffirmed Jordan's commitment towards a comprehensive and just peace in the region based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the return of all occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem.

He also reiterated Jordan's determination to continue to provide support for the Palestinian people in a manner that would help them regain their national and legitimate rights in their own homeland.

Referring to the official information sector's work, Dr. Majali instructed senior staff to speed up the ongoing reorganisation process at the Ministry of Information and its affiliated departments.

He also requested that the ministry submit a balanced budget that would enable the ministry to develop information work.

"Our duty as workers in the public service sector is to offer services to the public," said the prime minister.

He also stressed that the government was proceeding with decentralisation plans which, he said, should be applied in various information circles.

The premier called for regular meetings and dialogues between the ministry and its affiliated departments to overcome problems facing the information sector.

Jordan Press Foundation stockholders approve doubling their JD 1m capital

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Stockholders of the Jordan Press Foundation, which publishes the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, have approved the doubling of the company's capital and are now awaiting approval of their recommendations by the Council of Ministers.

The price of the share will be determined by the committee on the basis of the assets and profitability of the company as well as the present market value of its shares.

Representing 93 per cent of the foundation's shares.

Employees of the company hold five per cent and between five and 10 per cent are at the AFM. The rest is held by the founders of the company.

In a meeting held Monday, the general assembly of the foundation decided that the doubling of the JD1 million would be done through an additional one million shares of JD 1 par-value shares.

Half of the new shares will be paid for at par value from a JD900,000 special reserves set aside by the company over the years, with each full share given an additional half share.

The nominal shortfall will be paid by the stockholders.

The other half a million shares will be offered to the present stockholders at a premium to be decided upon by a committee of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The price of the share will be determined by the committee on the basis of the assets and profitability of the company as well as the present market value of its shares.

The recommendation to limit the offer of new shares to present stockholders was adopted in view of the expediency of such a process when compared with a general offer to the public, said Mohammad Al Amad, director-general of the foundation.

There was no indication of what price the Ministry of Industry and Trade will set for the new stock. Mr. Amad and other officials declined comment.

Anti-smoking activists rally support for march

AMMAN (J.T.) — The anti-smoking March, in which 5,000 people are expected to participate, will kick off Friday morning at nine o'clock from the Haya Arts Centre and conclude at the Orthodox Club in Abdou, announced Walid Nazzari, a member of the Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society (JASS).

Addressing a press conference Wednesday, Mr. Nazzari said their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein and Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein will be among the marchers.

Government to ensure truck owners' rights

AQABA (Petra) — The government is currently discussing plans to ensure the full rights of truck owners operating between Aqaba Port and various other destinations, Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad said Wednesday.

Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari, the Ma'an governor and other officials and truck drivers' representatives.

Mr. Hammad said the new ring road will be used by public and private sector trucks.

He urged the transport sector to work towards building a modern Jordanian fleet of trucks, capable of offering the best services to Jordanian economy.

Transport Minister Tarawneh said plans to ensure safety on the new road were in the making.

Mr. Hawari said that the ministry of public works was planning to construct parking lots for the trucks alongside the new road and to place road signs.

At the end of the meeting the interior minister formed a committee chaired by Ma'an Governor Hussein Habashneh to follow up on the implementation of rules concerning the use of the new road and related services.

Proceeds from the march, which is also backed by the Health Ministry, the Housing Bank, Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Coca Cola Company in Jordan, will finance projects by the Haya Arts Centre and JASS.

Mr. Nazzari said the march was meant as part of the awareness campaign against the nicotine habit and towards protecting non-smokers from the dangers of passive-smoking.

He said that the march will wind up at the Orthodox Club with a ceremony.

The government appreciates the truck drivers' efforts to promote their work and support the national economy, and will come up with a plan to respond to their demands for raising the rates of fees for transporting goods to and from Aqaba," said Mr. Hammad at a meeting here to discuss transport issues related to the port city.

In the meantime, as of Sept. 15 all trucks are requested to use the new ring road to avoid traffic congestion at the entrance to the city, said Mr. Hammad.

Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari, the Ma'an governor and other officials and truck drivers' representatives.

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Together in boat ride

ON THE eve of holding the meeting of the concerned Arab foreign ministers in Beirut in preparation for the 11th round of bilateral peace talks in Washington, the Palestinian side is joining the chorus of voices expressing optimism about the outcome this time around. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi confirmed Tuesday that the Palestinian side shares the across-the-board view that the next session of negotiations will register meaningful progress.

But while the talk about an initial Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza as a first step is gaining currency and acceptance among some Palestinian and Israeli circles, there is beneath the surface some tension and associated anxiety surrounding the whole option.

That is why perhaps the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination sessions held earlier this week in Amman have acquired an added sense of importance and urgency. Given the long-lasting and special Jordanian-Palestinian relations on every front and the geographic proximity between the two sides, there is no way that the Jericho-and-Gaza-first option can be realised without appropriate and thorough coordination and cooperation on every level and in every conceivable way. Gaza and Jericho are so small and unviable on their own without substantial Jordanian assistance and cooperation. Access to the Jericho area, for example, can never be realised without the help of Jordan. Amman therefore should be kept abreast of events and agreements leading to the realisation of this option as a matter of political, economic and practical necessity.

Besides, there are always understandings, agreements and diplomatic niceties to reckon with. Jordan has not only provided the Palestinian side with an umbrella for participating in the peace process but also held up agreement with Israel till there is a breakthrough on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The least that this country should expect in this regard is to be kept informed about Palestinian tactics and strategy in order to lend more effective support for them.

The latest rounds of coordination sessions between Palestinian and Jordanian teams are steps in the right direction. But what is more pressing than convening such cooperation fora is to conduct them in-depth and above all with candour and goodwill. Neither side wants just a show of unity. What is called for is a sincere effort to put the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination meetings on the right path by continuing consultations backed up by full disclosures about each other's intentions and objectives.

Jordan has no intention or interest in adding further to the current woes of the PLO. But the Palestinian leaders have to understand the constraints facing this country in order to keep it fully engaged on their side.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to Oman is timely and is aimed at contributing to the ongoing efforts for reestablishing solidarity among Arab states, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily Wednesday. King Hussein was the first Arab leader to call on Arab leaders to transcend the negative results of the Gulf war and forge ahead in total solidarity to confront the common challenge, said the paper. To back words with deeds, the King is pursuing contacts with Arab states to find a way of ending differences among the Arab governments and to pave the ground for reconciliation, the paper added. For the King, healing the rifts among the Arabs and reestablishing solidarity is a priority in view of the challenge facing the Arabs at the moment, continued the paper. It said that the King was foremost among the Arab leaders to realise that the enemies of the Arab Nation have their ambitions in Arab and Arab wealth and are intent on subduing the Arab people and depriving them of their dignity. The King, in his drive to find a just solution for the Palestinian problem, is trying to rally Arab countries behind the Kingdom's endeavours for a lasting and just peace, said the paper. It said that after Oman, the King plans to make a tour of the Far East in order to get further backing from Asian countries in support of the just Arab causes.

A COLUMBIAN in Al Ra'i Wednesday focused attention on the crisis facing the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its leadership. Tareq Masarweh said that this leadership is currently subjected to political and financial pressure, making its functions almost impossible. Indeed, the PLO is facing pressure in connection with the negotiation with Israel, prompting the negotiating team, including Faisal Husseini, to submit their resignations. Leading PLO members like Shafiq Hout and Abdullh Hourani have frozen their membership with the PLO in protest against the mismanagement, the ongoing peace talks and the financial crisis, said the writer. It is no secret that the PLO is coming under mounting pressure on all fronts and it is time that the Arab countries rallied support this organisation which stands out as a symbol of unity for the Palestinian people, said the writer.

Keys to AIPAC's success — votes and money

The following is the first of a series of four articles by James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute in Washington, on the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC, examining the sources of its power and the roots of its current internal and political problems. The writer contributed the articles to the Jordan Times.

THE AMERICAN Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the powerful pro-Israel lobby, has been hit by a series of crises over the past two years.

AIPAC's recent problems began in September 1991. Its losing fight against President George Bush over the issue of loan guarantees for Israel was the lobby's first major legislative defeat in ten years. AIPAC then found itself at odds in mid-1992 with the newly-elected Labour government in Israel. And, finally, over the past six months, after a number of embarrassing press stories and exposures, the organisation was hit by the forced resignations of its president, its executive director and one of its vice presidents.

For the first time since the group rose to power, the Jewish press, and even the mainstream newspapers, have run articles asking questions like "Is AIPAC in trouble?" and "Can AIPAC survive?"

While a great deal has already been written about AIPAC in the Arab press, much of it has been rhetorical and moralistic and too little analytical. A more sober political analysis is needed in order to: 1) understand how the lobby really works and identify the source of its power; 2) review the lobby's current problems and understand their background; and 3) assess the future of this group that has played such an important role in opposing a balanced U.S.-Arab relationship.

Since its inception some 40 years ago, the keys to AIPAC's success have been:

— The ability to create a network of influential American Jews and mobilise them to support Israel.

— The ability to raise substantial amounts of money and use it in a focused political plan.

— The ability to create an aura of power.

— The ability to develop and implement an effective political strategy.

Of course, these factors do not account for U.S. support for Israel, since from the days of Israel's creation there were both powerful political forces and popular support for the creation of a Jewish state. What AIPAC is responsible for, however, is the total distortion of the U.S. policy during the past two decades, which has resulted in the virtual implementation of parts of Israel's agenda by successive congresses and administrations. This agenda includes:

— special extraordinary economic benefits given exclusively to Israel.

— silence in the face of repeated Israeli violations of U.S. laws regulating arms sales, economic aid, and U.S. efforts to block or delay implementation by Israel of several United Nations Security Council resolutions.

— repeated opposition to important and mutually beneficial U.S. arms sales to Arab countries and

— the adoption of foreign policy initiatives that have forced the U.S. to mimic the Israeli policy on key Middle East issues.

So, while public opinion and

concern for the fate of the Jewish people after World War II may have at one time accounted for U.S. support for Israel, it is necessary to comprehend the workings of the pro-Israel lobby in order to understand how that support has been distorted to produce the highly unbalanced policy that exists today.

How has AIPAC done it? By a blending of the four keys listed above and detailed below:

The ability to network influential American Jews and mobilise them to support Israel.

Since its earliest days as an organised constituency in the U.S., the Jewish community has been active in social, cultural and political life. In this country they have been a central component in two of our major social transformation movements: organised labour and civil rights. Their leadership in these two movements catapulted many American Jews into major roles in politics and government and won their community significant allies among other ethnic and racial groups in the U.S.

American Jews have also been extraordinarily active in other ways in U.S. politics. For example, they are not only more involved in political parties and campaigns than most other groups, but they also vote in percentages almost twice as high as the national average. Though their overall numbers are small (they are only 2.2 per cent of the U.S. population), the Jewish community is heavily concentrated in a number of politically important states. More than 80 per cent of the American Jewish community lives in New York, New Jersey, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and California. When their percentage of the total population in these states is multiplied by their higher voter-turnout ratio, the importance of the Jewish vote can be seen in each of these states.

| State | Percentage of total vote |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| New York | 16 per cent |
| New Jersey | 10 per cent |
| Florida | 8 per cent |
| Maryland | 8 per cent |
| Massachusetts | 8 per cent |
| Pennsylvania | 6 per cent |
| California | 5.5 per cent |

Thus, in national and statewide elections, winning the "Jewish vote" in these states is viewed by politicians as an important key to their success.

In short, because of their long involvement in politics and in political and social movements, the American Jewish community is well-placed and respected throughout all the United States.

What AIPAC has been able to do, since its inception, is to create a network of prominent Jews already active in the political system, organise them and provide direction to their efforts. The organisation has been able to identify Jews who worked for politicians, were friends or associates or major contributors of politicians, and important Jewish leaders who came from the home towns of politicians whom AIPAC hopes to influence. By relying on such a network, the lobby was able to win U.S. aid for the new state of Israel and build a support base in Congress for their pro-Israel initiatives.

Today, AIPAC as an organisation has grown in excess of 50,000 members. Using its own network, but also relying on the organised strength of the other major Jewish groups, AIPAC has been able to accomplish a number of additional political objectives:

— It has created at least the appearance, and in some cases the reality, of being able to deliver a powerful bloc of votes committed to the single issue of Israel.

— It has expanded its network of prominent political workers, activists, donors and community leaders who work with it to achieve its agenda.

— It has created its own version of Washington's famous "revolving door," as it recruits prominent former congressional and administration staff to work at AIPAC and send former AIPAC staff to work in important positions on all levels of government.

Through this process, AIPAC has not only entered the mainstream of U.S. politics, it has become a component of the mainstream of the U.S. foreign policy establishment.

The ability to raise substantial amounts of money and to put it to use in a focused political plan

American Jews have long been viewed as legendary donors in American politics. For example, in the years before campaign finance reform, it was widely reported that in 1968, of the 21 individuals who contributed \$100,000 or more to the presidential campaign of Hubert Humphrey, 15 were Jews. Even now, with campaign finance reform in place, it is estimated that over 50 per cent of the total money raised by the national Democratic Party and 25 per cent of the money raised by the national Republican Party comes from the Jewish community.

But it is not just the amount of money that accounts for the tremendous influence of the donors — it is the targeting of that money which makes it so important a key to AIPAC's success.

After suffering a defeat in 1981 in their attempt to block the sale of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to Saudi Arabia, AIPAC decided to become more disciplined in the use of money in political campaigns. Recognising the possibilities and limits created by campaign finance reform, they helped create a number of political action committees (PACs) to implement their objectives.

The growth of PACs in U.S.

electoral politics was encouraged by the campaign reform laws passed in the late 1970s. These reforms sought to eliminate from elections large contributions from individual donors. The new law limited the amount one person could contribute to 1,000 per candidate per election. The law also allowed for the use of PACs — a fund that could receive \$10,000 from an individual donor and could give \$10,000 to a candidate in each election cycle.

At least 60 to 70 pro-Israel PACs currently exist — with 51 of them having AIPAC board members as officers or directors. In combination these PACs raise and distribute roughly \$4,000,000 to Senate and congressional candidates each election cycle. In effect, the campaign reform laws provided a loophole for large donors. Instead of giving \$50,000 each to ten different candidates, they could each now give \$5,000 to 10 PACs, which could in turn give \$5,000 to the ten candidates, for the same total of \$50,000 per donor and the same total of \$50,000 to each candidate.

AIPAC was the first to discover this loophole, and exploited it most effectively to circumvent the intention of the new law. In order to work, however, the entire system must be carefully orchestrated — something that is technically illegal as the law prohibits any cooperation among PACs and prohibits PACs from receiving direction from any source.

While AIPAC claims to have no control over, nor even to have offered advice to, the PACs — since to do so would be a violation of the campaign reform law — most informed observers dismiss this claim. There is significant evidence to point to AIPAC's direction of the pro-Israel PACs. How else, AIPAC's critics charge, can one explain how the \$4,000,000 coming from 51 PACs each cycle ends up so conveniently distributed and targeted to just the right Senate and congressional candidates? This network of PACs and the

quantity of money they contribute has been an important key to the success of the pro-Israel lobby. The PACs have allowed the lobby to:

— direct money to key races in states where there were no major Jewish donors and few Jewish voters;

— provide identifiable pro-Israel money in political campaigns so as to make it a factor that politicians take into consideration and

— have a mechanism whereby it could visibly reward friends and punish enemies.

Between 1990 and 1992, I did four extensive studies of pro-Israel PACs and their giving patterns in elections. In the 1990 work, "PAC-ing the U.S. Senate," I found a direct relationship between amounts of money received by a senator and their voting record on Israel. The senators with the most consistent pro-Israel records received on average \$100,000 per election from the pro-Israel PACs. Meanwhile, the senators with the records least supportive of Israel averaged less than \$8,000 per election from the same PACs.

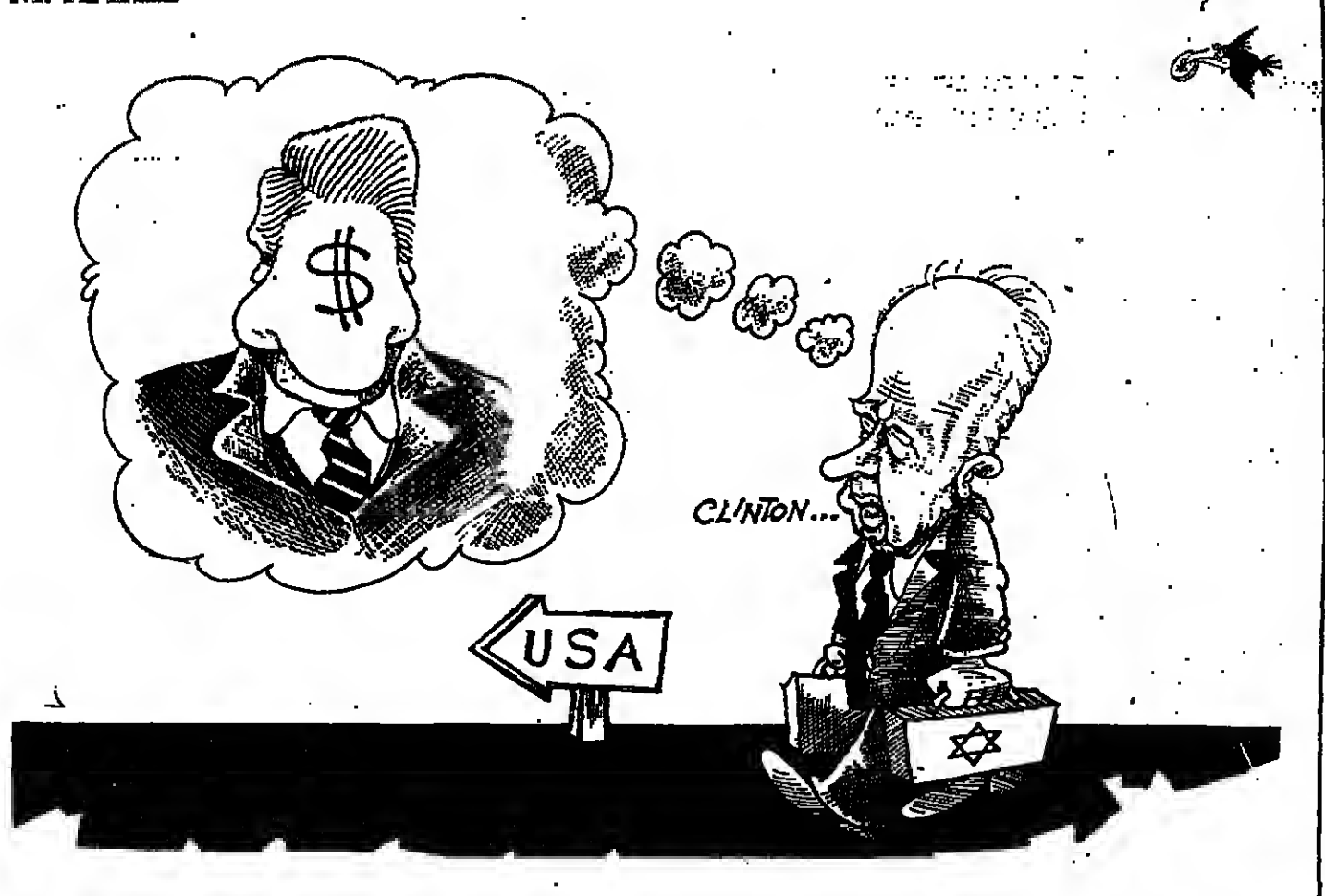
In a follow-up study on "pro-Israel PACs and the Gulf crisis," I found once again that those senators who had most consistently voted against arms sales to Gulf countries and any form of U.S.-Gulf security cooperation were consistently among the highest recipients of pro-Israel PAC money. The five highest recipients (Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, Senator Carl Levin of Michigan, Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, former Senator Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota and Senator Claiborn Pell of Rhode Island) averaged \$360,000 each in the last two elections cycles, and all five had perfect voting records in opposing all pro-Arab legislation.

Finally, in a 1992 study of where those PACs directed their contributions, I observed that more than 20 per cent of all the pro-Israel PAC donations in four successive election years went to just 17 senators (averaging over \$200,000 each). These 17 form a controlling bloc of votes on the two influential Senate committees which oversee all foreign assistance and arms sales abroad (Foreign Relations and Appropriations).

This ability of AIPAC to direct some \$4,000,000 each election cycle to a few important senators has contributed to their political power. And while the overwhelming bulk of the money goes to only a handful of senators and a few congressmen (most elected officials receive very little, if any, support), it is the fear that this money could turn against them that keeps many elected officials in line.

A by-product of the creation of PACs and the involvement of AIPAC with major Jewish political contributors has been that, gradually over the past number of years, major wealthy Jewish contributors have been brought into the leadership of the organisation and gained positions on its executive board. They now sit alongside the politically savvy operators who ran the lobby in the past. While their presence has added significant new financial resources to fuel the lobby, it has also produced tension within the organisation and within the Jewish community at large. It is this tension, as we shall see, which accounts for some of AIPAC's current troubles.

M. KAHIL



Organised crime wave hits Eastern Europe

By Sandra Lacut
Agence France Presse

VIENNA — A massive organised crime wave has hit Eastern Europe in the four years since the fall of the communist regimes, bringing with it racketeering, hit lists and fraud.

In recent months, Czech police have had to deal with a series of murders carried out by Czech and foreign hired killers. A dozen such murders have been recorded since May in Prague and other Czech regions.

According to the police, these killings mostly involve settling of scores ordered by "businessmen" who were quick to make money and fall into debt since the peaceful "velvet revolution" of 1989.

Their businesses are often linked to the "transfer of funds of sometimes dubious origin," police say.

Most of those murdered have fallen victim to professional hit-men after becoming involved with drugs or prostitution, or after finding themselves unable to repay unscrupulous creditors.

These hitmen, "real hired assassins from the former Yugoslavia," demand almost \$35,000 per contract, according to one police officer. But inexperienced

youths are increasingly happy to offer their services for less.

Organised crime has increased threefold since 1989 in the Czech Republic and is threatening to get out of control following the break with Slovakia last January, according to Josef Dusha, head of a special police unit in Prague.

Gangs of heavily armed criminals from the former Soviet Union and the Far East control a number of networks from abroad. The traditional traffic in drugs and weapons is dominated by the Yugoslavs, radioactive materials by the Ukrainians and prostitution by the Russians, according to Mr. Dusha.

In Romania, hundreds of illegal immigrants from the former Soviet Union — most of them from Romanian-speaking Moldova — have been blamed for a wave of armed attacks. These are linked to racketeering, a phenomenon that only emerged in 1993, but has been expanding rapidly in recent months.

In the space of six months, Romanian police have recorded more than 100 attacks perpetrated by racketeers from the former Soviet Union, including threats against buses filled with tourists forced to hand over their valuables at gunpoint.

In Bulgaria, storekeepers and

restaurant owners confronted by the racketeers have formed "self-defence" committees.

In Prague, small businesses and change bureaus pay up to \$2,000 a month to blackmailers under threat of violence. Most of the victims are either too frightened to report the crime or are themselves implicated in dubious activities, according to the police.

In Hungary, large-scale fraud doubled in the first six months of 1993 compared with the same period in 1992.

Hungarian police have arrested 19 people and launched investigations into 20 fuel distribution companies for importing diesel oil and passing it off as domestic heating fuel to avoid paying value added tax and customs duties.

In Romania, more than 700 joint ventures set up by Chinese nationals are in fact "phantom firms designed to conceal illegal activities," according to Tudor Angelescu, a Romanian chief detective.

In tacit recognition of the Eastern European problem, 1,000 crime experts from 48 countries were holding their 11th congress in the Hungarian capital this week, focusing on issues ranging from economic crime to the future of police and international cooperation in crime fighting.

Lawmakers find little voter appetite for a big new plan

By Alan Fram
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One win often builds momentum for the next in politics, but President Clinton's deficit-reduction victory may have limited his options for his upcoming push to revamp the health-care system.

Some congressional Democrats visiting home for the first time since they pushed his budget-cutting plan through Congress say their constituents don't want to hear about another big plan right now.

Instead, lawmakers said they found voters:

— In no mood for the broad tax increases a health-care overhaul may require, even one levied solely on employers.

— Demanding that money to pay for the overhaul come from federal spending cuts — even though the deficit-reduction bill just trimmed the growth of Medicare (health care programme for old people) and other popular federal health programmes.

— Wary of the medical-care effort because of scepticism about Washington's ability to fix things — especially something as complicated and personal as health care.

"The cynicism is just over-

whelming right now," Rep. Tim Johnson, Democrat from South Dakota, said last week. "It's tough to go home and tell people, 'I've got an idea that will make your life better.' They just don't believe it."

Mr. Clinton has promised to unveil his plan for reworking the nation's health-care system next month after Congress returns from its summer recess.

So far, he and aides have provided few details. But the proposal's main goals will be to provide coverage for everyone, and to rein rapidly growing costs.

It's likely to be an expensive effort because of the many billions of dollars a year it will cost to cover the \$37 million Americans now uninsured.

According to early descriptions, Mr. Clinton would put the prime burden on employers, who would be required to pay up to 80 per cent of their workers' insurance premiums in the form of a payroll tax. Other funds would come from cutting costs in the government's Medicare and Medicaid programmes, and possibly higher "sin" taxes on tobacco and alcohol.

Senate minority leader Bob Dole, Republican from Kansas, told the National Governors' Association last week that he

wouldn't rule out supporting mandates on employers and steeper cigarette taxes. Despite that, members of Congress say that in the aftermath of the budget fight, the public may be hard to bring along in today's strong anti-tax climate.

Lawmakers say there may not be loud resistance to raising taxes on alcohol and tobacco consumption. But they caution that there would probably be problems with a broad tax, even a payroll tax levied on employers.

That "would be perceived as a tax by the public," said Rep. Tim Penny, Democrat, from Minnesota. "It would be very tough for the administration to sell."

The broad tax on most energy sources that Mr. Clinton sought as part of his budget-cutting bill met similar resistance and was eventually whittled down to a 4-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax increase.

The anti-tax mood is fueled by a public perception that the needed funds can be squeezed out of federal health programmes.

"They'd prefer to see us developing cost containment programmes before we raise taxes," said the overhaul, said Rep. can from California Deoley.

A glimpse into the past, a stroll into the future!

By Fawaz I. Halazon

EVER STOP and wonder what has happened to the old city neighbourhood you were brought up in, and whether your kids will ever get to see it or even get to meet some of the people you were so accustomed to seeing? Ever long for the days when cars, computers, and microwaves were not really an absolute necessity in your household or in your life? When people of a community or a neighbourhood always went to the same old grocery market, bought from the same stand, and greeted the same old man?

Times have obviously changed, and many of us have changed with it, often leaving behind old living quarters and neighbourhoods, old marketplaces and afternoon cafes, and some of our old living habits and trends—sometimes even our lifestyles.

We have in the stages of

rapid development and urbanisation neglected to embrace some of the essential ingredients that are responsible for the progress and development of our cities.

We have left essential parts of our heritage, the backbone to our very existence and growth, to disintegrate in what is known to us today as the old downtown, Al Balad. In examining the past and present, and some of the negative impacts of rapid urbanisation, I am in no way undermining or condemning the overwhelming role of development and modernisation; on the contrary, man has always sought after new ways to make life easier beginning with the invention of the wheel and cart. But, one important aspect of the modern city of Amman is missing—that of the marketplace, the ingenious architectural creation that has emerged through time.

The marketplace is basically a unit that "embraces" and

unites many aspects of our social and economic activities under one complex system. My thesis looks into this complex marketplace from a historical point of view to bring about the distinctiveness and originality of the Arabian marketplace and develop it in a conceptual and aesthetic language, that borrows from the modern Italian and American architecture and contextualises it in an "eastern" character.

In the design presented the "modern" suq intermeshes with the modern urbanised parts of Amman rekindling many of the timeless aspects and forgotten treasures of the downtown area.

The traditional Arabian marketplace in general, is characterised by their narrow winding corridors leading into wide open courtyards with small cafes on the sides.

Following experiments with these miniaturised public spaces, it seemed obvious that the "natural" evolution of such similar



A massive model of the proposed market place

spaces in the "new" city was highly unlikely due to the ample undeveloped land and the relatively modest scale of projects built in most areas.

Consequently, and in order to recapture and recreate the fascinating forms of the suq, it was best conceived to develop the marketplace as a prototype in itself, a separate, self-sufficient unit that operates independently from any exterior modifications, mechanically, electrically, or otherwise.

This would provide daily essential household requirements to its immediate vicinity, accommodating them with such items as fresh groceries and meat cutleries on one hand, and various other amenities that are otherwise inconveniently located on the other.

This project begins to bring both our social and architectural heritages back to our growing city. It reintroduces to many the traditional sense of the Arabian city and marketplace—within a miniaturised version, of course—and its relation and eventual evolution to the modern one.

This project, throughout its time related themes, inevitably entails many historical references throughout its different stages of design, that visitors invariably will come across throughout their strolls to the suq. The various designs and numerous facade treatments recreate abstracted historical and tradi-

tional architectural monuments under a different setting, while bringing back glimpses of a long line of historical artifacts and preserved monuments found all over this kingdom.

Certain reminders are attributed to the famous Petra treasury carved out of the fabulous pink stone found in the South of Jordan. The latter is recreated in a modern and abstracted conical shape, seemingly carved out of a harshly massive stone background, and sits dynamically on a small public area that is flanked with Arabian style cafes and shops on all sides.

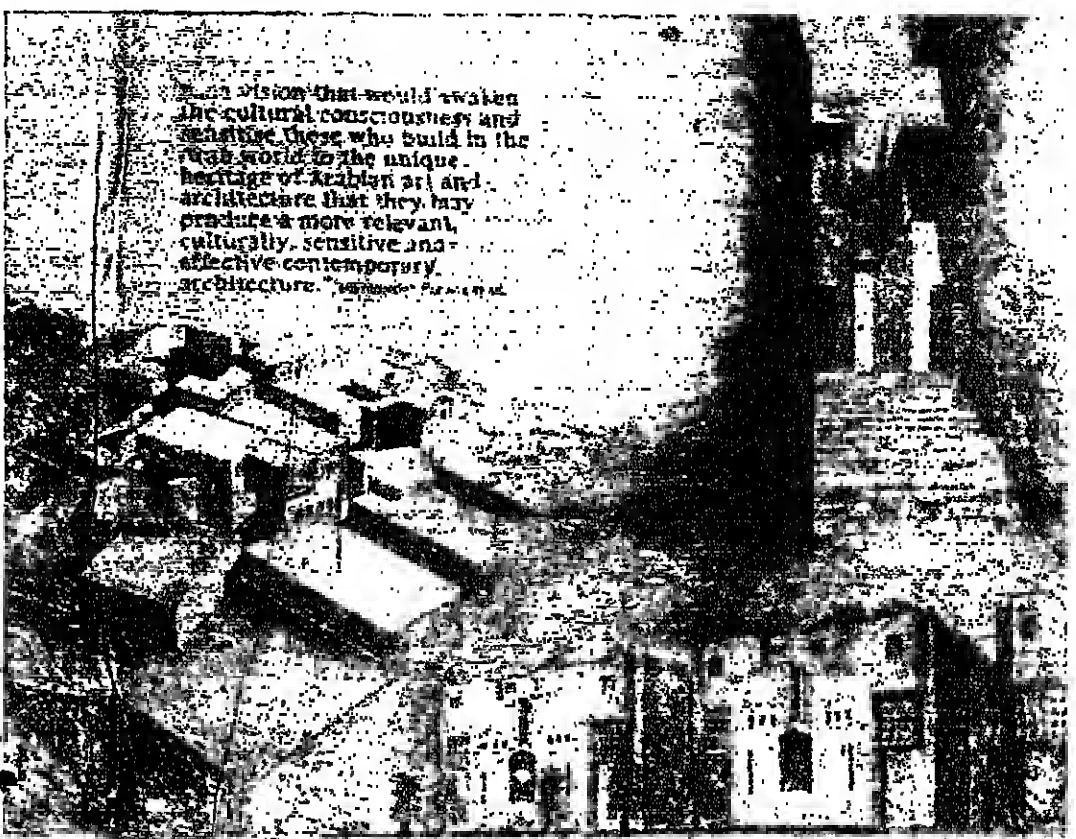
Down along this same public artery, one is struck by three massive dome structures that crown the grand Italian-modernistic units serving mainly the immediate neighbourhood as efficiently as possible through designating each unit with its separate entrance. These units become the first, and probably the most visible exterior skin to the project. They not only enforce the linearity of the 36 metre, two-way street with their pure cubical forms, but also infuse such dynamism to the street facades and overall appearance that they could only be conceived as continuously attracting new passersby, and endlessly raising the curiosity of many more to come.

Initially, I searched for social models, old and new, to base some of my studies and

various experimentations upon. I had read my books and articles on the orient that discussed the habits and lifestyle of many Arabs and Jordanians, from the latter part of the last century, and the early part of this one. It portrayed the way people migrated to the parts of Amman where the stream (Al Sail) used to run, and settled down into many small communities that slowly began to shape an intriguing marketplace, with a fully pedestrianised system that connected every space, forming an amazingly complex and organic system.

This became the "nucleus" to what we know today as the marketplace. It gave me the feeling of a charming miniature city, that was seemingly independent of all things around it. It was a business, entertainment, and a social "hangout" to all the locals. The relative size of the spaces within it encouraged interactions between all ages, prompting the growth of the minds and the dreams of its people, and making it into what we know today as the capital city of Amman.

This is a summary of an undergraduate architectural thesis that won nominations for 7 architectural awards at the University of Notre Dame. The writer contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



Different images from inside and outside the complex

Music and maize help to change 'racist' S. Africa

By Marius Bosch
Reuter

DURBAN, South Africa — A dreadlocked black student gyrates to the throbbing sound of a South African reggae band, lost in thought and temporarily oblivious to the violence which claims lives daily in his township.

Next to him, a young white woman in a fashionable black silk outfit flirts with a member of the band.

Around them in this Indian Ocean port's newest night club, black and whites brush shoulders and dine on food

seldom seen outside South Africa's black townships.

The menu is chalked in English and Zulu on a large blackboard in the club with dishes like "Isaladi Yesowetan" (Sowetan Salad) and "Inama In Phutu" (Beef Wrapped in A Maize Crust) falling uneasily on white ears not used to South African black languages.

Jam Sons Club opened its doors two months ago on the beachfront of Durban, the country's foremost tourist city.

Since then, it has grown in popularity as white South Africans discovered black

African food and music, owner Herbert Scheubmayr told Reuters.

He said Durban was "one of the most racist cities" he had encountered in South Africa and one of the reasons he opened Jam Sons was to show people of all races they could live in peace. "They (whites) must actually be able to touch another race and see they are not about to be eaten... It might even be fun," he added.

Many of the blacks coming to the club say they can mix easily with white patrons and also forget about the climate of fear and daily killings in the

sprawling black townships around Durban.

A bitter turf war between supporters of the rival African National Congress and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party in South Africa's Natal province has claimed more than 8,000 lives since the mid-1980s.

"This place is great. Good music, nice food and at least I can forget about violence and politics for a while," said the black student who identified himself as Thabo from Umlazi township outside Durban.

The music is pure African. When the band takes a break, taped music from

Angola, Botswana and Francophone Africa booms from the sound system.

Mr. Scheubmayr hopes to attract more African musicians to Durban. Already musicians from Zimbabwe and one or two other African countries are booked to play at the club.

And when a Mozambican musician recently visited the club, Mr. Scheubmayr said: "When you bring a nice hand from Maputo, this is the place."

But many patrons also come for the food, said chef Volker Backeberg.

"The food is something

that has been there all the time but has never been explored," Mr. Backeberg said.

Mr. Backeberg said many of the dishes are cheap and easy to make with "phuthu," or maize porridge, which is the staple food of black South Africans, featuring high on the menu.

Mr. Scheubmayr and Mr. Backeberg said decades of apartheid-induced isolation had cut South Africans off from their fellow Africans on the continent.

"And that is our aim, to return South Africa to Africa," Mr. Backeberg said.

Job-hunting tougher for Japanese women graduates

By Rika Otsuka
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan's sluggish economy is making job-hunting competition the toughest in years for the April 1994 crop of female college graduates as companies raise the hurdles and shrink recruitment opportunities.

Traditionally, Japanese blue-chip firms sue job offers by the second week of July every year. This year, large companies have offered far fewer jobs to women graduates.

One student at Aoyama Gakuin University, a well-known private college in Tokyo, says the tuition is so tough that about half of her women friends have not re-

ceived job offers. "Female students who have some (prior) connection to large companies were the first to get job offers," the student said.

"But those with some kind of handicap like a gap between high school and college, growing up abroad and not having a home in the Tokyo area are really struggling."

Japan's Equal Employment Opportunity Law bans such discrimination, but larger firms tend to favour only female students without so-called "handicaps," said Fumiyo Seimiya of Mainichi Communications, which publishes job-hunting information magazines.

During the "bubble economy" of the late 1980s, Japanese companies hired as

many people as they could to keep up with spiralling economic growth, said Seimiya. Then firms recruited students from diverse backgrounds, including many women.

But as the economy shrank over the past few years, firms found themselves with a surplus of workers and have become far more choosy in recruitment.

Just being a woman could be a handicap now, Seimiya said.

Recruit Research Co. Ltd., an affiliate of Japan's biggest publisher of employment news, reported that the ratio of job openings in April 1994 per female college student will be 0.79 (79 jobs per 100 women), the lowest level since the institute started collecting such data in 1984.

The ratio was 0.93 this

year. It was 1.58 at its peak in 1991, the institute's data showed.

Things are not much brighter for male college students. Recruit Research said the ratio of job openings per male student will be 1.81 in 1994, also the lowest since 1984.

"The data show that there definitely will be many female students who could not get a job in April," said Masaya Kinoshita, general manager at Recruit Co. Ltd., which also publishes employment information magazines for students.

"We have reports of companies telling female students that they won't hire women this year and of firms refusing to give company materials to them," said one Labour Ministry official.

When it became apparent

many Japanese firms were reluctant to hire women, the Labour Ministry told Japanese businesses last month to observe the Equal Employment Opportunity Law and not to require special conditions of female students.

On July 1, the ministry set up special desks where female students can get advice and report unfair treatment by employment officers, the official said.

Women students may face unwarranted personal questions from interviewers as personnel officers try to ferret out supposed shortcomings in candidates, the Aoyama student said.

She found that most interviewers asked her how her parents who live outside Tokyo would feel if she got a

job in the city.

"They keep asking the question. If I keep saying 'my parents don't mind,' then the officer will start thinking that I have family problems," the student said.

Despite the harsh environment for female graduates, things could be favourable for those willing to start out at smaller firms, said Recruit Co's Kinoshita.

Unlike larger companies, some medium and small-sized firms are still willing to recruit competent women and have job openings for next year, Kinoshita said.

"If students don't insist on 'brand name' companies, they still have a good chance of getting a job with some responsibility and satisfaction at smaller firms."

Diary



BACK-HAND SERVE: The story behind this week's replacement of Khaled Mahadeen as director of the Jordan News Agency (Petra) is one that tells volumes about the evolution of democracy in the country. Contrary to popular belief that Mr. Mahadeen was pushed aside because of his little skirmish with Al Dustour Arabic daily (see last week's diary), the real story is somewhat different. It started a couple of weeks ago, when the minister of information clashed with the Petra director, who is a subordinate in the ministry's hierarchy, over a "technical problem" that originated at the agency's end. Immediately after the news of the "technical" fault, which this diary is not at liberty to disclose to its readers, reached the minister, he sent Mahadeen a strong letter demanding an official enquiry into what had happened so that measures could be taken against the person in charge of the operation. As would be expected this letter did not go down well with Mahadeen who, well-known for his sharp tongue and pen, sent a strong-worded letter back to the minister. The minister reacted sharply: "either withdraw the letter or resign." No one who knows Mahadeen would have expected him to do either, which of course he did not. So the cabinet met, not long afterwards, and a decision was taken to employ Mahadeen as adviser at the Prime Ministry, but not to direct Petra. As if to depersonalise the whole matter, the government moved around a few of the other players in the information circle. We now have the core of bigger changes to come. The government still has tens of vacant positions to fill. The longer they wait on them, the sweeter they get, and the government can reap all.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "He (the prime minister) has been talking with the Israelis for almost two years now, but he would not talk to me even for three minutes" — Khaled Mahadeen, after he was sacked as director of the official Jordanian News Agency (Petra).

SEARCHING FOR AN EXCUSE: a private research centre has conducted three polls to tap different political trends in the country. The overseers of this research centre have placed a big tag on each of the polls that had been conducted. One of the polls attempted to uncover the level of political awareness among university students. A quick read of the well-produced poll underlined the predicament of amateur pollsters in the country. The 12 page publication carried questions that could only be called irrelevant to political awareness of current affairs affecting the Kingdom. It appeared to attempt to test the rate of retention among young men and women of historical facts. But that was not the only catch. Apart from the fact the pollsters' target group was 85 per cent men and only 15 per cent women, they also tailed each question and answer with their conclusions upon studying the response. The first question for example asked students to say when the Emirate of Transjordan was founded. Only 20 per cent of those polled knew the answer. The analysis went as follows: "The 80 per cent who did not know the exact year of the founding of their home country reflects the little sense of belonging of the youth; this means that they feel that the country has not offered them much to be proud of." Another question was on when the command of the Jordanian army was Arabised. Seventy-eight per cent did not know the answer. The analysis: "This result reflects the apathy of the youth towards the symbol of power in the country. It implies a feeling of alienation towards it." The best was asking them to name the total number of deputies in the Lower House of Parliament. Forty-three per cent knew the answer, which, the pollsters said: "Reflects the lack of political development in the country. Democracy just came back after nearly thirty years of inhibition." Several independent editors who looked at the poll did not believe that it was scientifically conducted nor that the people behind it really understood the role of polling. In fact one of them felt that the whole affair was just a case of "finding an excuse to publish the opinions of those who carried out the poll."

Nermeen Murad

Much ado about something

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — Kenneth Branagh's second Shakespearean film, *Much Ado About Nothing*, brings pure sunshine into our darkened cinemas. One of the British stars of the bubbly comedy, Richard Briers, reflected that sunshine in a droll, incisive interview about the seven weeks the troupe spent in sun-splashed Tuscany.

It is a tale of the interaction of British stage actors with such knowledgeable American film hands as Denzel Washington, Keanu Reeves and Michael Keaton. Branagh's strong yet subtle hand is all over the production as director and actor. His wife, Emma Thompson, fresh from her Best Actress Oscar win for *Howard's End*, adds more fizz.

"I still correspond a bit with Emma," Briers said, with a semi-permanent twinkle in his eyes. "As a bitter actor from Chiswick, I wrote her that I'd never won such prizes in my much longer acting career." She wrote me back with appropriate modesty. "Will you please stop writing me! I have changed. Yours sincerely, God."

As anyone knee-high to a

TV screen can tell you, Briers won his broad audience as Tom Good in the classic TV sitcom, *The Good Life*, a back-to-the-soil sitcom that established his stardom 18 years ago. The series has just had another festive BBC rerun, which gave Briers ample opportunity to look back at a remarkable career.

He joked about his six previous films, each more disastrous than the other. And, amazingly, in his work with Branagh's Renaissance Company, he's moved on from Restoration comedy, a memorable Uncle Vanya, Coriolanus at Chichester Festival Theatre and the title role in Shakespeare's most unrelenting tragedy, *King Lear*.

Much Ado was shot at the 14th century Villa Vignamaggio near the town of Greve in the heart of the Chianti wine region. That historic villa was once the home of the Gherardini family, whose daughter was made immortal in Leonardo Da Vinci's portrait of the Mona Lisa. After seeing the locals, it is obvious why she was smiling.

Branagh said, "I always felt that much Ado about Nothing needed to be shot on location to more thoroughly convey the sense of people

living in the countryside." He not only directed but also played Benedict to Emma's Beatrice, a cinematic marriage made in heaven.

On the set, broiling in the sun between the venerable cities of Florence and Siena, temperatures nudged 100 degrees. According to Briers, whose admiration of Branagh remains objective, the young director made a foolish mistake that nearly killed him.

"The entire filming was great fun, except for the first day," Briers recalled. "We had to run down the hill and I do think the temperature reached 106 degrees. We made eight takes of running down that hill, and I really thought I was going to die."

"I had broken my ankle during the tour of King Lear," he continued. "I was terrified it might happen again. I was wearing those terrible shoes called espadrilles, and all those loose stones and shards were coming at my feet. I was concentrating so hard on where I was going to put my feet, I forgot to breathe. I was the oldest member of the cast, which was depressing. A highly dangerous first day, which Ken should have shot last so he might at least have the rest of the film in the can if he had

a dead actor."

Briers says the American actors related very well to the British cast, despite the differences in attitudes, backgrounds and earning power. "We got on terribly well. There was very little money. The actors from the U.S. took a 95-per cent cut, while the Brits were working for their regular fees. We all had to live in digs... very nice, but simple. Nobody had dressers or that sort of thing, of course."

"It's strange, but Keanu Reeves, a young veteran of 15 films, including *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, and the upcoming *Bertolucci's* *Jack*, needed a police escort in France, but nobody knew him in Tuscany," Briers said. "Actually, I was better known in Tuscany than he was. There were quite a few British people there who knew me. I just said, 'oh, yes, The Good Life.' I told myself, 'Well, I'm bigger than him' — oh, yes, big in Tuscany."

Briers thinks the absence of recognition was good for the Americans. "Not being treated like big shots, they could fully relax, and we could hear their giving sighs of relief at that. Very quickly, they became part of a hard-

working family repertory group."

"They did think, of course, that we were all nuts. They do take their work a bit more seriously than we do. They stay in character, while we pull out the cigarettes and curse and go on to the pub," Briers continued.

"The American actors were a little more committed, a bit more serious. But they began to unbend and say to us, 'Man, I just love you, but you're mad.' We thought they were a little strange themselves. Considering we were foreigners to each other, we got on amazingly well," said Briers.

Inevitably, there were exchanges of technique. Briers tried to teach Keanu Reeves some Restoration comedy movements, but he consistently fell over. "He thought that was quaint!"

Briers used to say the difference between stage acting and film acting is that you're a bit more quiet on camera. "But the big actors like De Niro and Nicholson are not afraid of being very theatrical. So, I said to myself, why not be like Nicholson, not be frightened and still be true to the role?"

"Ken Branagh is very good about getting you to be truth-



Richard Briers (centre) in a scene from Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*, directed by Kenneth Branagh, with (left) Keanu Beckinsale, and (right) Brian Blessed

ful. He's a remarkable person. He sort of coaches you rather than directs you. Having done *Lear* with him, it gave me a lot of nerve after that, no matter how big the screen: If it's truthful, it will sell."

Branagh has encountered quite a bit of flack in the British press and among the audience. Briers said "the boy, the young man" has

been hurt but has developed his armour against the English disease of not liking people who push forward too much. "He's a great director and a fine actor. When he gets to my age, he'll be a great actor, too. He is, after all, making a lot of opportunities for actors and technicians to work on stage and in film. His life's ambition is to film all of Shakespeare's plays. Including the full,

three-and-three-quarter-hour *Hamlet*, on film."

"Our one and only ambition was to get people into the cinema. For many of them, it may be their only chance to see and hear that man's, amazing writing." Briers says the film was a true ensemble piece. "You never make it on your own in this business" — *World News Link*.

Well, blow me down: Anniversary of Popeye's film debut

By Anne Stuart
The Associated Press

WATERTOWN, Mass. (AP) — Well, blow me down. It's been 60 years since Popeye swaggered his way onto the silver screen. And his devoted fans say the spinach-slurping sailor man has weathered the years quite well.

"There has never been a point where Popeye has faded and then come back. He's always been there," said Fred Grandinetti, founder of the official Popeye Fanclub and owner of 1,000 pieces of Popeye memorabilia.

The 400-member club — and King Features Syndicate, which owns the rights to Popeye — are marking the 60th anniversary of Popeye's

first film appearance this summer.

It was in July 1933 that Popeye, previously a character in E.C. Segar's long-running newspaper comic strip, muscled into the movies as a guest in a Betty Boop cartoon. He blustered his way through a long film and television career before sailing off to rerun land with *Olive Oyl*, *Bluto*, *Wimpy*, *Sweetpea* and the rest of the crew.

Even now, "there seems to be a Popeye cartoon running somewhere in the world at every moment of the day," said Amanda Hass, a King spokeswoman who gives her title as "Popeye's personal publicist."

In Boston alone, "you can watch him eight times a day,"

Mr. Grandinetti said. He should know. He's been a Popeye devotee since he was 3 years old and his mother brought him an Olive Oyl doll to keep him company as he recovered from a tonsillectomy.

Now 31, he owns hundreds of Popeye items, including figurines, puppets, stickers, books, buttons, dishes, clothing, games, toys and posters.

At his parents' insistence, Mr. Grandinetti confines the collection to one room in the family's home. The Popeye paraphernalia crams the walls, doors, shelves, drawers and most of the floor space.

One portrait, drawn by another cartoonist, is inscribed in classic Popeye lingo: "To Fred, me besk

pal." There's a Popeye singing telephone, a Popeye "give-a-show" projector and a Popeye T-shirt that promises: "You, too, can have a body like mine if you eat spinach."

"People think I'm nuts," acknowledges Mr. Grandinetti, who finances his fixation with his paycheck from an office job at a local Vinyl Company.

He estimates he's spent about \$10,000 on memorabilia that, at current prices, is worth about three times that much. His favourite — and most expensive — piece: A large talking Popeye doll, circa 1951, purchased for \$500. Because it was a prototype, this particular doll has an incongruous little-girl voice

— the manufacturer changed it to the familiar gruff mumble before mass-producing it.

Mr. Grandinetti, who graduated from Northeastern University with a communications degree, self-published a book on Popeye collectibles and contributes articles to the club's quarterly newsletter. (He also wrote *Still Dreaming Of Jeannie* for the Barbara Eden Fan Club, but that's another story.)

His knowledge of Popeye lore is so vast that King Features sometimes refers callers with tricky trivia questions.

The syndicate, which actually dates Popeye's birth to his 1929 appearance in Segar's *Thimble Theatre*, a newspaper comic strip, marked the anniversary of his family debut simply with an

arm-wrestling competition in New York a few weeks ago.

Ted Turner's cartoon network ran a week-long "Popumentary" series, while fans from throughout the country gathered in Chicago for a Popeye Film Festival. They'll note the milestone again in September, when they gather for their annual "Popeye Picnic" in Segar's hometown of Chester, Ill.

But Mr. Grandinetti, also a free-lance cartoonist who teaches art on cable television, says the anniversary merits more widespread recognition. So he's spent the past few weeks on a Popeye promotion crusade.

"He's just a genuine all-around good guy," Mr. Grandinetti said in explaining Popeye's perennial popular-

ity. "He never asked for a reward. He just did the right thing."

Mr. Grandinetti is not alone in his admiration for the scrappy sailor who derives superhuman strength from inhaling large quantities of canned spinach.

"Believe it or not, it's because of his values," Mikal Brooks, the fan club's co-founder, said in explaining what led him to collect about 3,200 Popeye items over the past 16 years. "He's extremely loyal to his friends. He's kind to children, he's kind to animals."

Over the years, the one-eyed seaman has been in plenty of brawls, mostly with the beefy bad guy variously known as *Bluto* or *Brutus*. "I fights to the finish,

'cause I eats my spinach," he crows.

But Mr. Brooks and Mr. Grandinetti, among others, insist he's nonviolent, fighting only in self-defense.

Mr. Grandinetti is a traditionalist, preferring the dreamy world of the early Popeye cartoons to the short-lived 1980s version in which Olive and Popeye end their half-century courtship by marrying and producing a son. "Don't even ask about the 1980 movie with Robin Williams in the title role."

But there's one area in which Mr. Grandinetti and Popeye part ways. "I hate spinach, especially the canned stuff," Mr. Grandinetti said. "I can only take it with a lot of butter and salt."

Home is where the movies are

NEW YORK (AP) — When Wolfgang Petersen moved to California six years ago, he had a feeling it was not going to be like the Westerns he loved as a kid growing up in Germany.

The director of the acclaimed *Das Boot* and *The Neverending Story* knew what had happened to "George Miller, Wim Wenders and other directors from overseas who tried to make it in Hollywood. He was well aware of the compromises, the broken promises, the studio politics."

But Petersen did not expect to direct German art films nor did he plan to become the next John Ford. His reasons for coming to America have little of the drama of other immigrant stories: He wasn't a political exile, a criminal on the run or a dreamer trying to escape his past.

All he wanted was a chance to make movies. "The German film industry is dead," said Petersen, 52, a ruddy-faced man with sandy, shoulder-length hair. "Where I live and what I am has to do with where I work. I think, overall, worldwide, the most

interesting, talented people are gathered in Los Angeles.

"The bad things about Hollywood are very obvious: There's a lot of hot air, a lot of lies... It's very competitive, very money-oriented, very commercial. If you want to succeed there, you have to find a way as a filmmaker to keep your integrity intact and make good movies."

At first, Hollywood was a game Petersen kept losing. He spent months on a film with Kathleen Turner, only to have the actress become pregnant and the project fall through. His next movie, *Shattered*, was a thriller that suffered both from poor reviews and from financial problems at MGM.

But Petersen had made too many movies just to give up, and too many movies for someone not to notice him.

Clint Eastwood was looking for a director to do *In The Line Of Fire* and thought of Petersen, with whom he had chatted a few years earlier at a dinner party given by Arnold Schwarzenegger. Eastwood met with Petersen, checked out his work and gave Petersen the job.

"You have to have a little bit of confidence. You say, 'well, I've done 25 films before. I can make films and get all kinds of recognition and awards.' It's not like you don't know how to do it anymore," Petersen said.

"You sometimes have seven-year cycles. You look at other directors. They don't have the big successes all the time. Up to *Neverending Story*, my career was one success after another. Then I came into the stormy international scene. I needed time to get a feeling for this work — it's not Germany anymore."

In *The Line Of Fire* stars Eastwood as secret service agent Frank Horrigan, who still broods over his failure to prevent the assassination of President Kennedy. Divorced and ill-tempered, Listening to Miles Davis CDs in his spare time, he's in danger of again living this nightmare when a professional assassin named Mitch Leary (John Malkovich) phones and tells him he is going to shoot the president.

Horrigan begins a romance with a fellow agent (Rene Russo), but the film is really

a story about the relationship between him and Leary. They are like warring sides of the same psyche: The tough, but frightened Eastwood and the smooth, manipulative Malkovich. Both are loners, both living in a past they are convinced was better.

You can see elements of *In The Line Of Fire* in several of Petersen's films. There's the interaction of servicemen in *Das Boot*, the feelings of being haunted by the past in *Shattered*, the mind games in *Black And White Like Day And Night*, a German film about a particularly challenging chess match.

"I really thought this was my kind of thing, especially, the phone calls between Leary and Eastwood," he said. "It's a tightrope thing — so close, they kind of mirror each other, kind of the same problems with the past."

"I think it's very interesting that we all go through our lives being challenged, seduced by things and trying to find something in our lives. This basic pattern is obviously something I react to."

What first seduced

Petersen was America, at least American pop culture. Rock 'N' roll and Hollywood movies meant freedom for a boy growing up in bleak, postwar Germany. By the time he was 11, Petersen was making his own films. At age 20, he directed his first play.

After making several dramas for German television, Petersen directed his first feature, *One Of Us Two*, which came out in 1973. International acclaim came eight years later with *Das Boot* (The Boat), an intense, claustrophobic account of a doomed Nazi U-boat crew.

The \$12 million production, then the most expensive in Germany, took three years and Petersen shot nearly a million feet of film. The movie received six Academy Award nominations, including one for Best Director, despite heavy criticism at home.

"They were saying we are not allowed to portray our people in the war as normal human beings, like anyone," he said. "If we deal with that subject matter, we have to say what horrible people we



Rene Russo and Clint Eastwood film in *The Line Of Fire*. The film plays Secret Service agents in the

were. We were dealing with a kind of propaganda situation in reverse.

"Now Germany, in a

frightening way, goes to the other extreme. That wave is coming back again — the Neo-Nazi movement, attack-

ing foreigners... After 50 years it's still not back to normal. We're still looking for what we are."

Danish rock festivals — music, kindergartens and condoms

By Tomas Kristiansen
Reuters

LANGELAND, Denmark — As daddy drinks his beer listening to Irish rock veteran Van Morrison, his two-year-old daughter plays with an inflatable kangaroo in a huge kindergarten park.

The scene is one of some 30 major Danish rock music festivals, a booming business and a part of his northern country's summer lifestyle.

The 1993 season has seen

more festivals than ever before, despite the rainiest weather in recent memory.

Festivals compete by finding their own niches.

"The festival of the whole family" is the slogan of the Langeland Festival on a small island south of writer Hans Christian Andersen's home town of Odense.

It gives greying rock aficionados the chance to concentrate on Morrison and British bass virtuoso Jack Bruce while the kids are let

loose in a 5,000 square metre (54,000 square foot) kindergarten park.

The Roskilde Festival, one of Europe's leading rock extravaganzas, near Copenhagen drew 80,000 spectators this year and was characterised by organisers as the most successful ever.

Festival director Leif Skov says the festival, which attracts half of its crowd from abroad, mainly Sweden and Germany, has reached its spectator limit.

The four-day event offers a wide variety of rock, heavy metal, blues, hip-hop and more subtle kinds of music.

This year's big name was Canadian singer and guitarist Neil Young, but few big stars are invited to the festival which focuses on up-and-coming names.

The Roskilde Festival used to have a reputation for drugs, nudity and sex. While still not a family event the mood of the 1990s is now expressed mainly through

casual but safe sex and the occasional whiff of marijuana.

Danish anti-AIDS organisation offer free condoms at all the major festivals.

Organisers must be flexible in other ways, too.

When Denmark reached the final of the European Soccer World Championships last year at the height of the Roskilde event, the music was unplugged and giant outdoor television screens were set up for the final game

against Germany.

Competition between festivals is becoming fierce in a country with only 5.1 million people.

The 14-year-old festival at Skanderborg, which took place earlier this month, used to easily attract more people than it needed to secure its survival. But organisers said they had a harder time this year to reach the 10,000 ticket target.

The slogan is "the most beautiful festival in De-

mark" and the event in a forest area on the Jutland peninsula brought together an impressive gathering of domestic comedians in addition to the rock entertainment.

The organising of even a small festival is a formidable undertaking. At Skanderborg, 2,600 workers ensured that spectators waking up in damp tents could look out on a festival area which looked as good as new.

Non-profit organisations

around the country benefit from the festivals as well as providing some of the favour. Local sports clubs, minority hobby movements, Boy Scout and others see the chance to boost their finances.

Danish rock festivals are not only a question of music and business. They are also a modern version of the traditional village festival gathered local people to work together and prepare for a community party.



Figures do lie

By Jean-Claude Elias

Jordan Television (JTV) is currently broadcasting a very interesting documentary programme entitled *The Dream Machine*, retracing the history of the computer since it was first brought to life just after the end of World War II. While certainly a dream for some, a *sine qua non* working tool for others, it remains a rather a nightmare for a certain group of people.

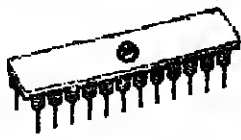
The regular personal computer (PC) user usually doesn't have to worry about characteristics, specifications and other numbers. He would normally be given a machine that some specialist or enlightened friend would choose for him. All he has to know is how to operate the equipment and, naturally, the software, or programmes he needs to use.

With the uninterrupted fall of PC prices and their ever-increasing power, more lay people have to make choices when selecting or purchasing PCs without having the technical background that would allow them to make the right decision. Nor can they use the service of specialised consultants for the low price of the PCs does not justify at all the added cost of the consultants' fees.

To help them select the right equipment, such people would try to find comfort and assistance in the commercial catalogues and brochures manufacturers generously, cleverly distribute. If there is a field full of comparative figures it is obviously in the computer's industry. Memory size, hard disk capacity, clock rate, access time, resolution, transfer rate, ... you name it, they have it. And this is where the nightmare starts.

PC manufacturers realise, all too well, that their promotional commercial documentation is oriented towards the average consumer and not the specialists. They have understandably acquired the habit of presenting very attractive figures. The information in a PC catalogue can lie as much as social statistics or opinion polls unless one knows how to read and interpret them. One has also to

chip talk



take into consideration the figures that are NOT given. For example, a brochure can indicate that the memory of a PC is eight MB (megabytes — million characters). Fine. Why doesn't it also mention the memory's access time, equally important? It is expressed in nanoseconds (NS) and ranges from 12 to 6 NS. The smaller the faster.

A screen or monitor's resolution is expressed in pixels (picture elements) — the number of tiny dots that make the display. The higher, the better. One should also inquire about the size of the pixel (0.33, 0.31 or 0.28 mm) and the number of possible colours per pixel. Most monitor manufacturers reduce the number of colours (without indicating it in the catalogue) when they give you higher resolution. So much to know!

Reliable, complete information is in the technical (non commercial) documentation that any serious manufacturer prepares. Unfortunately such documentation is not easily disclosed to the customer and anyway might be too complicated to read. The other excellent source is the specialised computer magazines that conduct good, unbiased reviews of software and hardware every month. Their data is, fair, well presented, complete yet easy to understand for the non-professional. I have often found the information in such publications more useful and even more accurate than the one provided by the manufacturers themselves.

Little feet

By E. Yaghi

I hear in the chamber above me
The patter of little feet
The sound of a door that is opened
And voices soft and sweet.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Yusef looks like an angel. He has dark hair, green eyes and fair skin. His height is about 2 feet and as for appearance he has a very deceptive innocent look. Such events as him is what makes grandparents' hair turn even grayer than it already is from raising their own batch of children. Now, grandparents are supposed to be those jolly old folks who sit back in their rocking chairs and just chuckle their hearts out when paid visits by their delightful grandchildren. But, wait a minute, this is all wrong, for Yusef is a typical grandchild who is in reality a very short monster in disguise that puts Dennis the Menace to shame.

When the little jungle of joy first arrived at his grandparents' house, they were very delighted to see their first grandchild. They cooed and aahed with, "Oh, isn't he adorable! He looks just like his father did when he was two years old!"

But they soon discovered that here the resemblance definitely ended. However the first evening of his visit, the boy did put on a good show and when his father warned: "He's so naughty, just wait and see," his doting grandparents said to one another: "Oh, he's just kidding. Look how sweet the baby is!"

Boy, were they in for a big surprise! The next day that "sweet" little "baby" zoomed around the house as if someone had installed within him an inbuilt motor. He didn't leave one single item right side up in the whole house, nor did he ever stop testing his lungs at full blast as though there is some misproportion between the size of little monsters and the sounds that they emit. That child was everywhere at all moments, like salt in the cooking or better yet, like salt on a raw wound. In no time at all, crumbs covered the entire premises, sticky fingerprints abounded all over, and Yusef discovered every electrical appliance as well as outlet wherever he sped.

Day two found both his grandparents completely exhausted and ready to collapse in some hidden corner but they waited patiently for the kid's bedtime. "Dear," grandma said to her irritated husband, "don't normal children go to sleep around eight or nine at night?"

Grandpa grumpily replied: "In the first place, there has never been such a thing as a 'normal child.' In the second place, why should the guy go to sleep when he enjoys tormenting us? And in the third place, the energy he's got will last him for another five hours!"

One hot sticky and boiling summer day, darling Yusef decided to test his expertise on the key for the guest room door. Sure enough, he succeeded in locking the door, but

he forgot himself inside, which didn't bother him in the least. Nevertheless, being afraid for their valuables as well as the safety of their grandson, the hectic grandparents tried to coax the child to free himself.

"Yusef, turn the key the other way so you can unlock the door!"

Suddenly, the boy turned into an idiot and couldn't move the key either way. "OK, sweetheart, don't cry! (Of course he wasn't crying). I'm sliding a newspaper under the door." under the door.

The idiot began to tear the paper into pieces, but the key remained in the door. Finally, a brilliant idea struck the by now frantic grandmother so she rushed out of the room and returned with a spare key and opened the door. There was sweet little Yusef, sitting on the rug and happily ripping up the newspaper. His mother swept him in her arms and swooned and cooed over him with tears in her eyes and, "oh, my darling, are you all right?"

When the small terror isn't locking and unlocking doors, screaming his head off at the top of his lungs, checking every electrical outlet in the house and poking pens into them, switching every light off and on a thousand times, opening and shutting the refrigerator, sticking his hands in the washing machine, playing with the vacuum cleaner, washing dishes (?), or trying to murder his baby sister, he might be found up on the roof of his grandparents house trying to scale the walls and jump off the four story building or following every move his grandparents make. They can be seen endeavouring to hide in bathrooms or taking sudden walks, but they are usually caught before they escape and become stuck with the pitter patter of little feet.

"One good thing about being a grandparent is that when the grandchildren cry, we can give them back to their parents," grandma deduced to her bleary eyed husband who sat almost in a faint in his favourite chair.

"Is that so?" Well, not if you live in the same house. Did you realise that this little kid is either driving us crazy by getting into everything we own or spending the rest of his time crying for the things he isn't supposed to have? Whoever said little children are fun? They're noise boxes with more hands than an octopus and more energy than ten adults."

Right now the doting grandparents are patiently (?) waiting for that glorious moment when their son, his wife, little Yusef and his baby sister find an apartment hopefully many miles away from their grandparents' house. But all in all, his grandparents really do adore him when he's not being naughty or crying, preferably when he's sleeping. He really does live in their hearts.

And there will I keep you forever
Yes, forever and a day,
Till the walls shall crumble to ruin,
And moulder in dust away.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

★ Along 34th Street in New York last year, more than 6,000 dancers took part in a team dance accompanied by stamping the ground in unison and harmony.

★★★★★

★ In New Guinea tens of embalmed bodies of veteran soldiers have been shown on scaffolds in honour of their courage in defending their village some 80 years ago.

★★★★★

★ A Briton invented "an eyeglass" equipped with mini-mised TV screen annexed to two lenses.

★★★★★

★ An American firm has taken the privilege of producing special head-dresses for tame cats.

★★★★★

★ Ants can survive underwater for 14 consecutive days.

★★★★★

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

The weather

— How is the weather now? Kayfa halat al taks al aan?
— It's changeable. Mutakallib.
— It's beautiful. Jameel.
— It's very windy. Assif Jiddan.
— It's very warm. Daff Jiddan.
— It's foggy. Dababi.
— It's damp. Ratib.
— It's very cold. Barid Jiddan.
— It's very hot. Har Jiddan.
— It's rainy. Mamtir.
— It lightens. Al sama tobrik.
— It thunders. Al sama tor'id.
— It hails. Al sama tom'tir barad.

★★★★★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

Coffee

— An evergreen shrub believed to have originated in Ethiopia.
— Discovered and popularised by the Arabs at the beginning of the 15th century.
— Unknown to Europe until the 17th cent.
— Seeds are roasted and ground to powder to make coffee.
— Flowers are fragrant, small and white.
— Fruit, which is scarlet when ripe, contains two seeds.
— Grows to 15-20 ft high.
— Shrub is in full bearing in 5-6 years and lasts for 30 years.
— Tropical crop and does best on frost-free hillsides with moderate rainfall.
— Brazil produces more than two-thirds of all coffee in the world.
— Other chief exporting countries are: Kenya, Columbia, Guatemala, Venezuela, El Salvador, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Mexico and the East Indies.
— World production estimated 4,500,000 metric tonnes.

TIME FOR FUN

• One of Billy's baby teeth bothered him and since he wouldn't let his father try the old string and doorhandle method a visit to the dentist was the only alternative. The dentist had no trouble extracting it. In fact, Billy didn't even feel it coming out. But when he saw the tooth in the dentist's forceps he let out a terrible screech.

"That will be five dollars," said the dentist when he saw Billy's father fetch out his wallet.

Now it was the father's turn to yell.

"Five dollars!" he screeched, "I thought it would be only a dollar."

"It would have been," replied the dentist, "if the boy's shouts hadn't scared four customers from the office."

★★★★★

• Maybe John wouldn't have staggered out of the saloon if he had known that the minister was passing at that very moment or maybe he would. At any rate he did.

The minister looked at him with large, sorrowful eyes and said, "Oh, John, I'm so sorry to see you come out of such a place as that."

"All right, then, sir," he said sadly, "I'll go right back in."

★★★★★

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

SMOKE: If your dream featured smoke from a known source (i.e., a fire or chimney), it signifies improving financial conditions; however, if you saw or smelled the smoke but couldn't identify its source, you are likely to be in for a period of annoying worries or petty disappointments. Keep your chin up: you'll soon find comfort in new experiences.

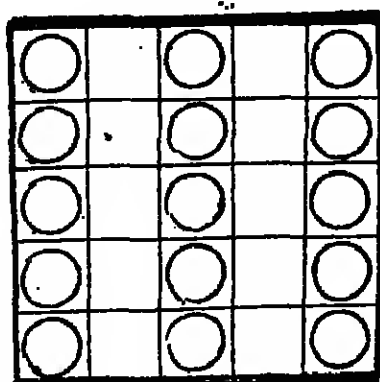
SOLDIERS: For a woman to dream of soldiers is a warning against casual love affairs; but for a man, it predicts surprising business (or professional) changes.

PUZZLES

JUMBLE BOX

(I) Untangle the five words given in jumbled form and place them in the rows of the grid in the correct order, and the circled letters will give three more words reading downwards.

M A R L A
S E R O L
S E V E R
Y E R V E
D E R I B



★★★★★

(II) A snail climbed to the top of a railing at 1½ feet per hour. Coming down it sped along at 4½ feet per hour. The whole journey took 6 hours. What was the height of the railing?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 26

8:30 Top Close To Comfort

9:10 H.E.L.P.

Steam Heat

Starring: John Mahoney, Wesley Snipes

The team help two kids who think that there are ghosts in their house. They also help two old people and put out a big fire in a big building.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Lethal Exposure

Starring: Ally Sheedy and Francois-Eric Gendron

The adventure of Chris Cassidy, a young photographer, who's photos at JFK Airport lead her to Paris in a somber police affair.

Friday, Aug. 27

8:30 Head Of The Class

Volleyball Anyone?

The class challenges the school's basketball team for a volleyball match.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

The Shadow Of Death

Tessa and Dicky succeed in sending a notorious criminal to the electric chair.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The One Game

The three partners Magnus, Nicholas and Jeanette work in a company that produces video games. Nicholas discovers that his friend Mati works for Magnus.

Saturday, Aug. 28

8:30 It's A Wacky World



The Golden Girls Monday at 8:30

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Variety Show — Gloria Estefan

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — City Boy

Starring: James Brolin and Christian Campbell

A young city boy, Nick, leaves the city looking for his father. He ends up in a logging site and after many adventures, decides to make it his new home.

Monday, Aug. 30

8:30 Step By Step

Walter gives Cody \$250 as a gift for the musical recital he presented at the old people's home. Cody does not take the money. Instead he donates the sum to the old people's home.

9:10 Documentary — The Dream Machine

8:30 Golden Girls

Room No. 7

Blanch and the girls visit their old house, especially room No. 7 and remember the old days.

9:10 Thirtysomething

Father and Lovers

Melissa tries to help her boy-

The Paper Back Computer

How the advent of the PC changed the face of the universe since 1984.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series — Le Gerfaut

King Louis XVI helps Le Gerfaut and his Indian friend to run away from the Bastille Prison and announces that Le Gerfaut is dead.

Monday, Aug. 30

8:30 Night Court

Harry and Leon

Judge Stone takes Leon, the orphan living in the streets, into his home until the authorities find him a home.

9:10 Documentary

10:00 News In English

10:20 Shattered Promises

Sgt. Raid is given an assignment by the police to look for Diane who disappeared.

riend Lee to find a job in the company where her brother Michael is working.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mystery Movies — Sherlock Holmes

The Eligible Bachelor

Sherlock Holmes suffers from lack of sleep and stress while his friend Sir Robin asks him to find his bride Henrietta who ran away on her wedding night.

Tuesday, Aug. 31

8:30 People Next Door

Walter and his family move from New York to Ohio to live there with his sister-in-law.

9:00 Faces And Places

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

Magical tricks with the great magician Wayne Dobson and his friend Bingo the rabbit.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Mayor Of Hell

Starring: James Cagney and Madge Evans

Reform takes a lot of courage and a down to earth man willing to put his life at stake.

Wednesday, Sept. 1

8:30 Night Court

Harry and Leon

Judge Stone takes Leon, the orphan living in the streets, into his home until the authorities find him a home.

9:10 Documentary

10:00 News In English

10:20 Shattered Promises

Sgt. Raid is given an assignment by the police to look for Diane who disappeared.

The situation concerning artificial blood

By Jean Chabrier

Blood is an organ in its own right which, on its own, maintains most of the vital functions by fulfilling the needs of the tiniest of our billions of cells. It carries thousands of specific substances all of which play an essential part. Any loss or disease of this precious liquid, whatever the cause, can have the most terrible consequences. Scientists are thus trying to produce artificial blood.

PARIS — The idea of blood transfusion is very old, but it was only in 1940/50 that it was able to be applied and it developed tremendously between 1950 and 1970, contributing to the boom in surgery and in the treatment of medical, obstetrical, etc. haemorrhages.

The liquid part, or plasma, plays the important rôle of a vector, carrying metabolic, hormonal, coagulation, excretion, etc. products. Its hydrodynamic rôle is equally

important, maintaining sufficient pressure for the work of the "heart-pump" to be carried out in optimal mechanical conditions.

A simple figure reveals that, at rest, the heart propels 8,000 litres of blood a day. From the simple "physiological serum," (saline solution), used from before 1914, to the most modern synthetic molecules, we have everything we could wish for to make up, in volume, for a haemorrhage and prevent the

heart-pump from failing.

Present-day solutions respect the viscosity, acidity, ionic balance, etc... In case of need, freeze-dried human plasma, which has saved so many lives, can also be used.

Cells make up the other part of the blood, that is to say:

— The white blood corpuscles of which there are three main kinds. They are the most important part of the body's defences and, among other functions, carry part of the immune systems as well as the HLA (human leucocyte antigens) described by Jean Dausset (Nobel Prize 1980).

— The red blood corpuscles or erythrocytes, which carry the ABO and Rhesus system and whose rôle is to carry oxygen to the tiniest cell and to remove the CO₂ resulting from combustion and metabolism of the cells. Without oxygen there is no life.

A true copy

In the present state of sci-

ence, it is out of the question to be able to manufacture white blood corpuscles which are infinitely complex. At the most, in certain immune deficiency syndromes, it is possible to more or less successfully stimulate their production, such as in the case of AIDS. However, scientists are seeking to produce (artificial) red blood corpuscles for their essential rôle of carrying oxygen.

A number of teams are working hard on the task of producing this "artificial" red blood corpuscle, not without difficulty. This blood cell does not keep well (20 days maximum). Moreover, there is the obligation of respecting the blood group (for reasons of compatibility) and the risks involved in transfusions (haemolysis, kidney complaints, various forms of contamination, etc.).

Three major possibilities are being developed:

— Fluorocarbons. Research has been carried out on these molecules for ten

years. They have the property, not to transport oxygen, but to dissolve it. It is a stable product which keeps very well, without any problems of compatibility, infection or toxicity in itself. However, the major drawback is that the patient has to be in a hyper-oxygenated atmosphere on the limit of toxicity. It can be used in special cases (surgery, vascular accidents, etc.) in which it is essential to avoid hypo-oxygenation of the tissues.

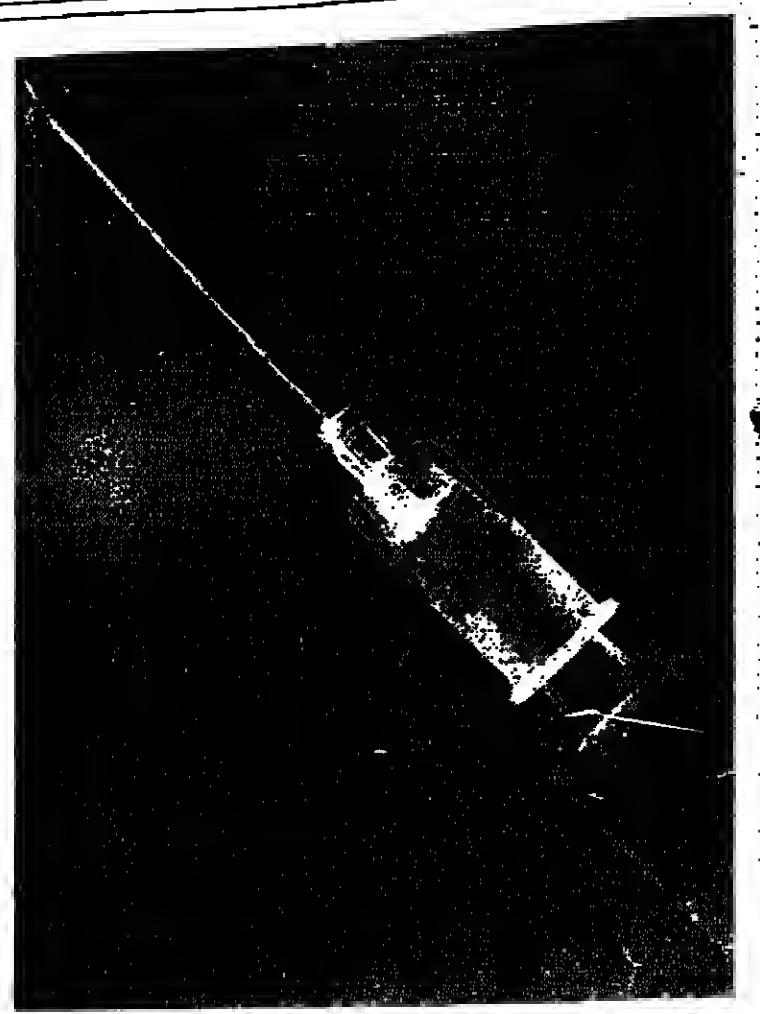
— Using animals.

Haemoglobin is a protein with 4 chains maintained by weak electric links around the "haem" nucleus which is the core of the oxygen transporting system. At a time of genetic manipulation, it seems fairly simple to manufacture a similar protein. So transgenic animals (pigs) were used to produce this human protein and it worked. The advantage is that it is easy to produce, but the drawback is that the final product is an almost pure

haemoglobin, identical to human Hb, but with a high viscosity and hence a danger of toxicity for the kidneys by its degradation. Research is being continued.

— A recombinant protein. This protein figures among the best solutions. The main active agent is the classical "Escherichia Coli" bacterium which is used in biotechnology to industrially produce human recombinant proteins ("true copies") for therapeutic use (growth factors, interferons, interleukins, etc.). E. Coli has proved to be able to produce or synthesise an even stronger, more stable protein than the natural protein and does not degrade (hence no risk for the kidneys). There is also no immunity risk (as it is a "true copy"). Authorisation for clinical trials on man was obtained in November 1992.

Research is also being carried out on combining two methods in the same product at the same time: A synthetic haemoglobin and an artificial plasma, which could be ideal.



Researchers hope to produce artificial red blood cells soon

Study: Smoking leading known cause of a deadly leukemia

By Lauran Neergaard

The Associated Press
ATLANTA — Smokers have a 50 per cent greater risk of contracting a deadly form of adult leukemia, according to government research that presents the strongest link yet between cigarettes and leukemia.

Tobacco smoke causes 22 per cent of all cases of myeloid leukemia, making it the leading known cause of the disease, the study by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) scientist found.

"A lot of people are worried about exposure to radiation and electromagnetic fields, which are linked to

leukemia," the scientist, Dr. Michael Siegel, said. "But it's clear that smoking is much more deadly."

"It's yet another cancer related to a known carcinogen, which is tobacco smoke," said Dr. Clark Heath of the American Cancer Society.

Leukemia is a cancer of the blood cells. The cancer society expects 26,700 new cases in American adults this year. About 12,000 of those will be myeloid leukemia, which is often fatal.

Doctors don't know everything that causes myeloid leukemia, although the chemical benzene, radiation and certain viruses are known to

cause some cases.

In February, the strongest evidence to date was reported in the archives of internal medicine. Researchers found that smokers had a 30 per cent higher risk for contracting adult leukemias and that tobacco smoke caused about 14 per cent of all cases — or 3,600 a year.

Now Dr. Siegel has gone a step further. For just myeloid leukemia, he found that smokers have a 50 per cent greater risk than non-smokers.

Also, his analysis of 15 smoking-and-cancer studies found that smoking caused more of the cancer than did all other known risks com-

bined.

"Because myeloid leukemia is so often fatal, if we could eliminate smoking, we could eliminate 20 per cent of adult leukemia deaths," he said.

There is biological evidence to back up his findings: — Tobacco smoke contains high levels of benzene, radioactive lead and radioactive polonium, all of which are carcinogens.

— Smokers have high levels of radioactive lead in their bones, which is where the blood cells that leukemia attacks are produced.

— Smoking suppresses the immune system, preventing it from fighting cancer cells.

Georgia couple to have first U.S. baby conceived with new technique

By Lauran Neergaard

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Hunter Simpson is making history before he's even born.

In October, he'll become the first baby in the United States born through a novel fertilisation technique — a single sperm injected directly into his mother's egg.

"I've got a polaroid of my four little embryos I had implanted...and one day we'll be able to tell him, 'one of these was you,'" said Claudia Simpson, who failed to conceive for five years before direct sperm injection worked on the first try.

"We'll tell him 'all' about how he was conceived a little differently," added her husband, Pat, who already envisions taking Hunter onto his weekly television series, *TNN's Backyard America*.

Direct sperm injection is a new infertility treatment for men unable to father children because of weak or insufficient sperm. A single sperm is injected into a human egg under a microscope. Three days later, the resulting embryo is implanted into the mother's uterus.

"It's almost foolproof," said Dr. Michael Tucker of Reproductive Biology

Associates (RBA) in Atlanta, who treated the Simpsons. "All you need is one sperm."

Dr. Andrew Van Steirteghem of the Brussels Free University in Belgium developed the method last year. He has reported 100 births.

Two U.S. clinics — RBA in Atlanta and the Genetics and IVF Institute in Fairfax, Va. — began offering the treatment this year. Mrs. Simpson and two other RBA patients are due to deliver this fall. The Virginia institute claims the first twins, due in February, and two other early pregnancies.

The Virginia institute learned the technique from the Belgians. Dr. Tucker developed his own, slightly different method. Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta also will begin performing the procedure this fall, when a doctor who studied under Dr. Van Steirteghem arrives.

"It's a major breakthrough," said Dr. Joseph Schulman, director of the Virginia clinic, who predicted the method will spread quickly. "One to two per cent of all couples of reproductive age might benefit from this."

But other doctors caution that while promising, it's too early to know just how effec-

tive direct sperm injection is.

"The technique is so delicate that it can destroy the egg," said Dr. Veronica Ravnikar of the University of Massachusetts Medical centre.

"And the question will always be, is there some potential for genetic defects?" added Dr. Lisa Hasty of Emory University School of Medicine.

Dr. Joe Massey, co-founder of RBA, wants that possibility studied. Although a battery of tests makes him confident RBA's upcoming babies are healthy, nobody knows how nature chooses a successful sperm so doctors don't know what to look for, he said.

"Just because a sperm fertilises an egg doesn't mean the chromosomes are right," he said. "Any increased risk of chromosomal defects has yet to be determined."

But Van Steirteghem hasn't reported any problems. And Dr. Schulman said the genes of infertile men aren't defective; it's just that the sperm that carry those genes just don't move well.

Mrs. Simpson, 34, isn't worried. Tests indicate her baby is healthy.

The suburban Atlanta couple has an 8-year-old daugh-

ter, Lindsey, but couldn't conceive again. Mr. Simpson's sperm weren't strong enough to penetrate the jelly-like coating surrounding the egg. Five tries at in-vitro fertilisation, the standard treatment in which several thousand sperm are mixed with eggs in a petri dish, failed.

In January, Dr. Tucker recommended direct sperm injection. The \$9,000 procedure worked.

But he didn't tell the couple they'd be pioneering the technique in this country. "We found out by accident that we were the first," Mr. Simpson said. "We were having an ultrasound and this embryologist said she wanted a copy of everything. I thought something was wrong, but she said, 'didn't you know this is the first?'"

They donated 14 eggs, seven for in-vitro and seven for direct injection. Direct injection fertilised four eggs. One embryo grew.

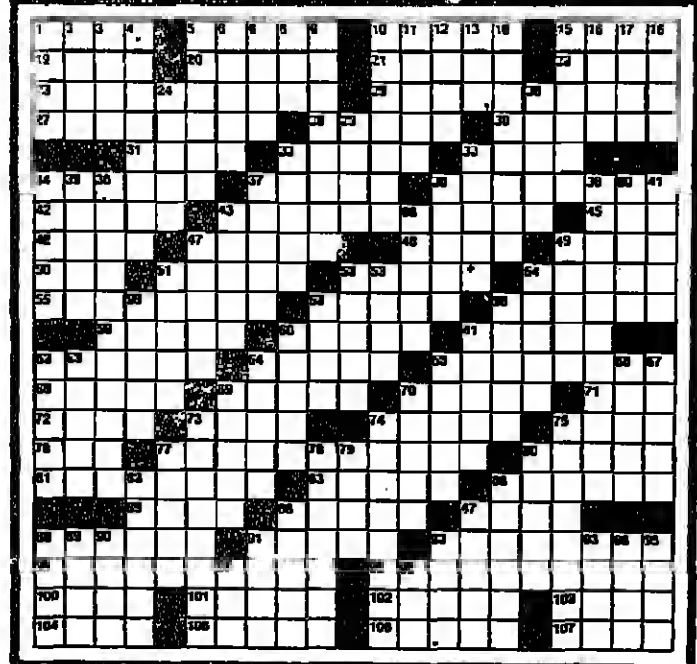
"So many people now are trying to have kids and can't," Mr. Simpson said. "That's our message: Don't just throw your hands up and say you can't have one. Claudia's living proof you can."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

UNIVERSALITY

By Harold B. Counts

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Tough thing made victims as his vacation; then, this is his thing.
2. Dumb bumper sticker message: Drive carefully, but if you suddenly get killed, you'll never forgive yourself.
3. Farm girl went farmer's sweetheart with gifts from last flame.
4. Export steel bar salesman sells cells to massacre Mexican prison.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. A BLOOD TO LAUGH UTTF TWUBIFHIBUB
YUGTH DF JUJGRLEB OBUGJ WILKRW
YWLHIB.
2. FAT XDC XFDCW, "PHQWE EF PDHA SDW XO
BDQW, ETBC BOBWHITE, DCY CFS H YFC'E
WXBAA EFF IFFY."

—By Barbara J. Ragg

3. DOWNALASZ NEQAZAS UWLC GHZY,
LDRZY, HSM IAL FAGYL PHXASQ FYTS
LUAXZ WUM CHPUYUWCI COAZZ FYSC
FOWSQ.
4. QD YAPLD YATPIZYKNTKT,
EGAOLITYKNGA ZYD QLEGZL "OGNELT
IYAK GA."

—By Rita Salvato

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WHO says well-funded programme could cut AIDS toll

By James Forrester

Reuter

GLASGOW, Scotland — A properly funded prevention programme could save many of the eight million people expected to die of AIDS by the end of the century, a top WHO official said.

Dr. Michael Merson, head of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global AIDS Programme, said WHO projected that 30 to 40 million people would be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, by the end of the decade. Of these, some 10 million would have developed full-blown AIDS.

Speaking to journalists at the ninth international virology conference, Dr. Merson said WHO projections for the incidence of HIV infections and the number of AIDS deaths were on the conservative side. Other bodies had arrived at higher figures.

"These projections, though, need not come to pass," Dr. Merson said. "If the investment is made — \$1.5 to \$2.9 billion a year, that's not a lot of money — in the developing world, if we could find those resources and apply them in the right way then we could cut down the number of new infections by half by the year 2000."

Dr. Merson said that though there had been progress no vaccine to halt the spread of HIV was yet in sight. "Important progress has been made but the results available today show that we are still years away from an effective HIV vaccine," he said.

Earlier, in his keynote speech to the opening session of the conference, Dr. Merson said most deaths would be in eastern and central Africa, where the adult death rate may triple in some countries. He said Ivory Coast's first case of the incurable disease was recorded in 1985 but AIDS was now the most common cause of death in the capital Abidjan.

"There is no doubt that the development of a safe and effective vaccine would offer an invaluable addition to our control efforts," he said.

Dr. Merson said up to 10 million new HIV cases would be babies infected in the womb, at birth, or through breast feeding.

He said there had been 2.5 million AIDS cases — 70 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa — since AIDS was recognised in five homosexual men in Los Angeles, California, 12 years ago.

The average 10-year time-

lag between HIV infection and development of the disease meant the present number of AIDS cases paled in comparison with WHO's conservative estimates that more than 14 million men, women and children were now infected.

In New York, San Francisco and seven other U.S. cities, AIDS was already the leading cause of death in men and women aged between 25 and 44, Dr. Merson said.

Dealing with the global spread of the HIV epidemic, Dr. Merson said that over the past year the virus had spread faster in South and South

East Asia.

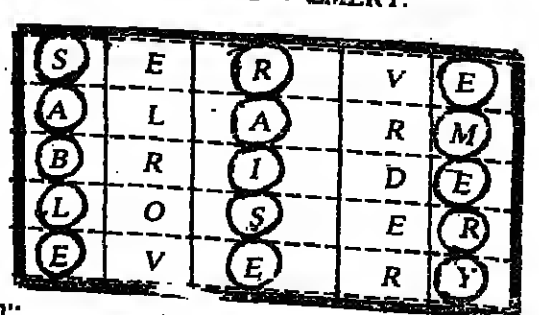
"Just five years ago, fewer than 200 people in Thailand were known to be infected with HIV," Dr. Merson said. "By late 1992, the number had risen to an estimated 450,000."

In Burma and India, HIV infection among groups of injecting drug users had risen to 50 per cent in just four years. HIV cases had also been spreading fast in Latin America and the Caribbean. Parts of the Caribbean had the highest reported per capita AIDS rates in the world, Dr. Merson said.

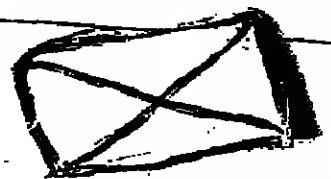
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History reawakened to give arts a future Darat Al Funun — a haven for art and artists in Jordan

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — From wherever you stand and look you see Amman with its so familiar and diverse landscape. You feel at home facing the stone wall held together only by the mastery of the builder, overlooking the houses perched on the hills, with the minaret of a mosque detaching itself on the horizon, with the line holding clothes to dry in the sun or with the fig tree tempting the hungry with its ripe, lush, fleshy fruit.

The place, an old residence now housing Darat Al Funun, is actually an offspring of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, hosting a "permanent" art gallery, a library and a workshop, with the avowed aim of spreading the knowledge of art (through its library of over 500 books in English and Arabic and a video collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and video cassettes in Arabic from the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris), sharing art (through its exhibition) and creating art (in the studios, where a resident artist will conduct workshops for interested artists and which houses a print-making machine, provided by the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, and the basic tools and materials necessary for sculpting).

The studios will give the artists the possibility to explore new fields in the arts that require specialised technical equipment and an environment in which artists can interact and exchange ideas.

Taking you to the entrance, shadowed by a rounded roof supported by four pillars with flower motifs on the capitals, are twin external staircases, gently embracing in their wide curve the beautifully tiled portico.

The traditional Amman residence, built by the Hmoud family in the 1930s alongside the remains of a Byzantine church, was renovated to its original form by architect Ammar Khammash.

The house was at the time in a posh area where well-off families lived and set the architectural style: "A bit Italian, western," says Mr. Khammash who, from the explanations given, proved to have thoroughly studied the history of the house about which he talks fondly.

After the Hmoud family, it was inhabited by Peake Pasha and later it was rented out by the Hmouds to a school. "The place was abused by the school. Changes were done to the house. They were clumsy, inappropriate to the original grandeur of the house," says Mr. Khammash. Some setting also occurred, with cracking in the walls, but, as the



"Taking you to the entrance, shadowed by a rounded roof supported by four pillars with flower motifs on the capitals, are twin

external staircases, gently embracing in their wide curve the beautifully tiled portico."

architect says, "we had no major structural problems."

Adapting it to become fit for a gallery, the building was made to keep its original three-bay plan of a central hall, with an elevated ceiling that allows light to come in through high-up windows, and two side halls where non-structural walls were taken down, making them more apt for exhibiting works of art, and building, from the inside, some of the windows, for the same purpose.

A delicate balance was preserved between the old and the new with much attention given to every single detail, be it colour coordination, hanging of the paintings, renovation, lighting, door frames, lamp shades, stone or marble, band rails, angles to preserve or add, alarm and ventilation systems. From the old damascene floral patterns of the oles, whose colours, (black, red and greys) have worn beautifully and are intact, to the lighting system, flown in from France — state of the art, latest in illuminating equipment which does not focus light like spot lights, but gives a toned-down, subdued and diffuse light — care has been painstakingly taken for nothing to jar the eyes and the aesthetic feelings of art lovers.

The same attention was given to the display of works. "How do you hang works by 50 artists in a space that is

somehow confined?" asked Mr. Khammash, himself a painter and art designer, voicing the question in my mind ever since knowing that such a tremendous amount of artists, from Jordan and the Arab World, were housed under the same roof.

From the look of things and Mr. Khammash's explanations, the display was done following, other than good, common sense, colour and theme combinations, size considerations and even the architecture of the building. As a result, artistically executed windows are to be found next to real windows, extension of theirs, creating planes and volumes opening into each other, never limiting the space.

The same is valid vertically, where staircases lead you up to different planes, never ending abruptly, always having more space open in front of you, whether in the forms of halls, rooms, balconies or the open spaces around the building.

A pyramid-shaped skylight covers the stairway leading to the library (overlooking the exhibition hall on one side and the heart of Amman on three others). Its clear glass walls allow sun to flood the stairs. "You come to light properly and figuratively," says Mr. Khammash, referring to the light provided by both the star and the books.

To the south of the building, the Byzantine church, adjacent

to a cave speculated to have been the place of rituals for some pagan inhabitants, was first identified in the last century by Major C.R. Conder.

Subsequent excavations have revealed two inscriptions among the ruins. One may indicate that the church was dedicated to St. George, the other raises the possibility that the church was built over or near a Roman temple dedicated to Hercules.

The about 23-metre-long structure, has remnants of a mosaic floor in one of the two aisles that flank the nave.

The church and garden provide a dramatic outdoor setting for various art forms, including the performing arts, which will also be part of Darat Al Funun's programmes.

Included in the exhibition are representations of chairs, as varied as the artist who produced them. Classical or abstractly modern, made of wood, metal, leather or foam, and of different shapes and sizes, the chairs bring an innovative idea to the already full of innovations gallery.

The exhibition, inaugurated Wednesday, Aug. 25, 1993 by Her Majesty Queen Noor, will not exactly be a permanent one. The artists, exhibiting recent works, will replace each sold one with a new one, encouraging their productivity and making their work available to the public all year round.

Dream Machine unravels dream

By Kathrine Rath
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The "Dream Machine," which is now being broadcast weekly at Jordan Television's (JTV) Channel 2, is the title of a series of programmes about the remarkable birth and evolution of the computer and its impact on our daily lives.

The programme is a science documentary produced in 1991 by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). It consists of five 50-minute episodes and is being shown on Sundays at 9:10 p.m.

"The Dream Machine" explains the basic principles and functions of the computer in a manner which makes the fundamentals of this technical wonder understandable to the layman.

However, "The Dream Machine" is not only dealing with the technical aspects of the computer but is also a programme about human development. It shows how the computer has revolutionised peoples' lives by affecting the way we organise our activities as well as our approach to problem solving, and points to the strong dependency we have developed on computers. At work, in school, even at home, as researchers, as scientists, or simply as users of libraries, we utilise computers not only for convenience but also to increase the efficiency and accuracy of our performance.

The first part of the programme, sub-titled "giant brains," was screened two weeks ago and provided an introduction to the series by reviewing the early history of the computer and presenting the individuals responsible for the inventions and their contributions.

The second part, "inventing the future," was broadcast last Sunday. It described the development of the electronic computer from the first costly, space-consuming machine, which could only be operated by a specialist, to a cheaper, more universally useful computer, as well as the early software development. It looked at the invention of integrated circuits, which made the first moon landing possible, and the important development of the computer language from the binary code to COBOL — common business oriented language — using letters and the decimal system. It also showed the introduction of computers to industry and the human reactions, often characterised by fear, to this new technological invention.

"The paperback computer" is the sub-title of the third part of "The Dream Machine"

showing this Sunday. Here the way to the production of smaller and cheaper computers, made possible by the invention of the micro chip, is described in great detail. The episode points to the educational value of the computer and looks at the development of a more user-friendly machine through software improvement as well as the introduction of computer-graphics and the invention of the "mouse." It talks about the rise of Apple Computers Inc. — a pioneer in the market with its unique use of pictures and symbols — as well as IBM's introduction of the personal computer (PC). Virtual reality, which is the use of computer technology to produce a fictitious three-dimensional reality, is briefly presented in this part.

Can computers think? This was a question asked already during the early development of the computer. The fourth part, "the thinking machine," attempts to answer this.

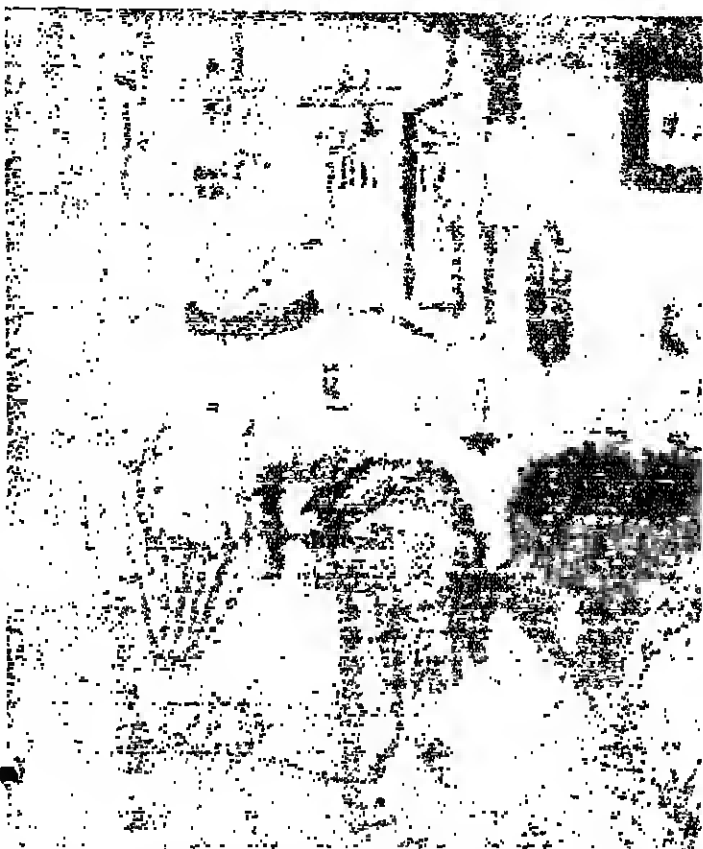
It is about artificial intelligence and talks about the problems involved in making the computer simulate the hu-

man brain and "think" for itself. Computers are shown performing specialised actions such as driving a car, doing limited translations from one language to another, and differentiating between male and female persons.

The last part in the series, sub-titled "the Passing of Remoteness," looks at the worldwide computer networks, which are used for a variety of purposes such as electronic mailing and international financial dealings, and talks about the positive and negative sides of the computerisation of our society.

In addition to this current series about computers, JTV's Channel 2 is planning to broadcast different other educational programmes dealing with issues ranging from health to nature via politics.

"Inside Britain," which is the title of a programme looking at different aspects of British life and society, is currently under viewing. The BBC-produced "Bad Medicine," about different sides of medical health care, is also being considered for broadcasting.



Oil on canvas by the late Princess Fakhrelnissa Zaid, one of the works on display at Darat Al Funun

Asian 'megacities' face water crisis

MANILA (AP) — The "megacities" of Asia's developing countries face serious problems providing enough clean water for their millions of inhabitants because of pollution and decaying infrastructure, an expert said Tuesday.

"The emergence of megacities has necessitated rapid expansion of new supplies with sources of water increasingly becoming scarce and investment costs becoming exorbitant," said Sayed A. Baha, the director of the Asian Development Bank's infrastructure Department.

Mr. Baha spoke at the opening of a four-day regional meeting on managing water resources attended by more than 70 officials of the bank and delegates from

the "megacities" — Bangkok, Peking, New Delhi, Dhaka, Jakarta, Karachi, Manila and Seoul.

The bank reported that by the year 2000, half of the world's largest cities will be in Asia. It said rapidly increasing demand, growing pollution and salinisation, and destruction of watersheds are threatening the region's water supply.

Mr. Baha said there would be no need to increase water supply if the cities would use it efficiently through proper pricing and by reducing waste, which is generally more than half the amount of production.

He also said it would be wiser to invest early in proper waste water and sanitation facilities rather than spend more later to handle the effects of diseases caused by unsafe supplies.

"The lack of treatment and disposal for waste water and human excreta in many megacities is often tacitly accepted as a necessary evil by residents who believe they cannot afford the cost of full sewerage," Mr. Baha said.

"But as was proved by the recent cholera epidemic in Peru, those costs are small indeed compared with the cost associated with an epidemic."

He said water management for large cities should consider not only drinking water but also competing demands for water supply.

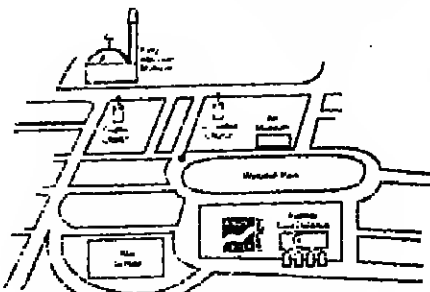


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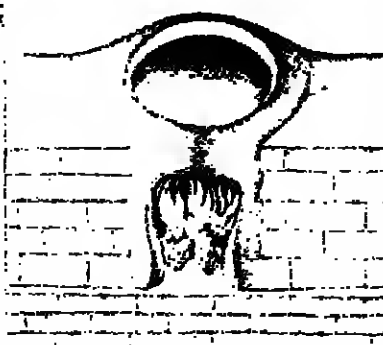


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Kan Zaman

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World Bank considers expanding amount of information to public

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank will consider proposals Thursday to give outsiders more say in how it hands out tens of billions of dollars each year to developing countries, bank officials said.

The proposals — designed to expand the amount of information the bank makes public about its loans — range from the establishment of a \$1 million public information centre to publication of hitherto secret documents.

"The bank should be more open about its policies and activities," acting president Ernest Stern said in a memo to the bank's board obtained by Reuters. "Broader dissemination of information will enhance the quality of our work and strengthen public understanding of it."

But U.S. environmentalists and bank critics charge that the proposals do not go far enough. They want the Clinton administration to press the bank to open its operations further than is currently proposed.

"The World Bank's proposed changes... are totally inadequate," a coalition of environmentalists said.

The coalition — The Environmental Defence Fund, Friends of the Earth, The Sierra Club and The Bank Information Centre — argues that the World Bank proposals will not result in the public having a meaningful say in how the organisation is run.

Both sides in the dispute agree that greater public disclosure will

enhance the effectiveness of the bank's loans by giving those who will be affected by its construction projects a voice in the process.

But the bank believes that it must also be careful not to jeopardise its relations with its borrower countries by releasing confidential information.

An earlier proposal that would have led to the bank obtaining blanket approval from borrowers for disclosure of information has been dropped following objections from some of those same nations, much to the dismay of environmentalists.

Instead, the bank will give borrower governments a chance to review reports that are to be made public so that they can

identify confidential issues that should be kept secret.

"The World Bank's current proposal to release documents on a case-by-case basis represents an unacceptable step back from the previous proposal," the environmental coalition said.

Besides considering proposals for more public disclosure, the bank's board Thursday will also hold a preliminary discussion on establishment of an independent inspection panel to handle complaints about the organisation's loans.

Here again, U.S. environmental groups have criticised the bank for not going far enough and for not giving the proposed panel enough power.

Italian government fears violence over job crisis

ROME (R) — Warnings the unemployed could riot in Italy's main cities this autumn rang in the government's ears Wednesday as it sought ways of creating new jobs without increasing an already huge budget deficit.

A warning that the situation could get out of hand not only in depressed areas like Naples, Genoa and Reggio Calabria, but also in hitherto "safe" cities like Milan, Turin and Rome, was given by Interior Minister Nicola Mancino Tuesday.

At a meeting with Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Mr. Mancino reported on the risks and officials said they had discussed how to prevent unrest breaking out in areas where nearly a quarter of the working population is out of a job.

The alarm sounded by the minister over what will happen

when factories reopen after the summer break prompted headlines like "Three cities on the edge of chaos" and "Fears of terrorism on the labour front" in Wednesday's Italian newspapers.

"Civil governors (responsible for law and order) up and down the country fear that if things go really badly, they will no longer be able to control the situation," the daily La Repubblica said in a front-page editorial.

Last February, Mr. Mancino warned that the mafia could take advantage of the unemployment crisis, which is almost three times worse in the crime-ridden south than in the more industrialised north.

The employers' group Confindustria warned earlier this summer that 750,000 jobs were at risk in coming months. But seeking to play down the alarm, Confindus-

tria this week said the situation was "alarming but not yet catastrophic."

Cabinet Secretary Antonio Maccanico said in an interview published Wednesday the government was tackling the jobless issue and would "give priority to highest risk areas like Genoa and Naples — just to mention the most dramatic (situations)."

The prime minister's problem is how to create jobs quickly in "hot" areas when the government is by Sept. 8 committed to saving 28 trillion lire (\$17.5 billion) from the 1994 budget by cutting spending for virtually every ministry.

The latest unemployment figures in April showed that 2.34 million Italians, or 10.5 per cent of the working population, were out of a job. However, the job-

less percentage in southern areas like Naples and Reggio Calabria is over 25 per cent.

The figures only tell part of the story. They do not include the hundreds of thousands who have been temporarily laid off and stand very little chance of getting another job.

In the first half of this year, there has been a 26 per cent increase in the number of workers temporarily laid off under government-backed schemes — a dramatic indication of how deep the recession is biting in Italy.

Mr. Ciampi has called a ministers' meeting Thursday to tackle the jobs emergency. They are expected to revive major construction projects that had been approved by the previous government in April, but which never got off the ground.

Toyota profit plunges 25%

TOKYO (AFP) — Toyota Motor Corp. announced Wednesday that its profits had plunged by nearly a quarter, compounding a wretched year for Japanese carmakers hit by currency losses and weak sales.

Group pre-tax earnings fell almost 25 per cent from a year earlier to 322 billion yen (\$3 billion) in the year to June, the third consecutive decline. Toyota said.

"The circumstances were very severe," Vice Chairman Masami Iwasaki told a news conference, referring to the yen's surge of more than 10 per cent in the final quarter. "We are making the utmost efforts to avoid losses."

But Mr. Iwasaki said the world's third-biggest carmaker had "no plans" to shut down any factories — unlike rival Nissan Motor Corp., which is to close a major plant near Tokyo after suffering a 108 billion yen loss in the year to March.

Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. and Daihatsu Motor Co. Ltd. also incurred losses in the same period while their bigger competitors — Honda Motor Co. Ltd., Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and Mazda Motor Corp. — suffered steep profit falls.

In a statement, Toyota blamed "currency exchange losses, sluggish sales at home and rising personnel costs" for the lower profit.

The company, which is also the biggest manufacturer in Japan, said it expected the parent's earnings alone to dive 30 per cent this year after a decline similar to that of the group as a whole.

"In the coming year, the domestic economy is expected to recover slowly," the statement said. "Worldwide, however, a number of factors make the outlook less promising, including the trend of the U.S. and European economies and the rapid fluctuation of exchange rates."

Toyota's global earnings have now tumbled almost two thirds since they reached their peak of 838 billion yen three years ago.

Mercedes to scrap 14,000 jobs in 1994

STUTTGART, Germany (R) — Luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz A.G. which has been hard hit by a steep downturn in the European automobile market, announced plans Tuesday to cut nine in 12 jobs in Germany next year.

Mercedes, the automotive unit of Daimler-Benz A.G., Germany's biggest industrial company, said it aimed to scrap a further 14,000 jobs in 1994 on top of the 8,400 being lost this year.

Mercedes management board chairman Helmut Werner said in a statement that the company would not be able to avoid sacking some head office administration staff. It could also not rule out compulsory job cuts in its commercial vehicles division.

But its car workers would be safe from dismissal and most of the job losses would come through early retirement or voluntary redundancy and by leaving vacant posts unfilled.

The new measures should save over one billion marks (\$590 million), Mr. Werner said. The company is also reducing spending on voluntary social welfare programmes as part of its programme to cut costs.

The latest job losses mean that by the end of 1994, Mercedes will have cut some 37,500 jobs over a three-year period.

At the end of July it employed a total of 163,900 people in Germany, down from 170,000 seven months earlier, a spokesman said. It had originally planned just 7,000 job cuts in 1993, but he said this target had now been

increased by one-fifth.

Mercedes said the management board had started discussions with the works council over the planned job cuts Tuesday. A decision on redundancies in the truck division depended on market developments, it said.

Official figures show Mercedes car sales in Germany, its most important market, fell by a steep 31 per cent in the first six months of 1993, far faster than most other carmakers, to just 102,000 units. That gave it a market share of 5.9 per cent against 6.9 per cent in the first six months of 1992.

In Europe as a whole, industry snarls estimate Mercedes' share of a shrinking market dropped to just 2.7 per cent in January-June from 3.2 per cent a year earlier. The company has had problems selling its flagship S-class model, which has been criticised for being too big and too thirsty in an age of belt-tightening and environmental consciousness.

Sales of its compact 190 model also fell sharply earlier this year in the run-up to the June launch of its successor, the C-class. But Mercedes said a high level of orders for the C-class meant its expectations had been more than fulfilled.

Weak demand at Mercedes was the main reason for a sharp drop in turnover at Daimler in the first quarter of 1993, when group net profit sank from 480 million marks (\$285 million) a year earlier to just 20 million marks (\$11.86 million).

U.N. creates post to probe waste

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After years of complaints of waste and mismanagement by the United States and other U.N. members, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali Tuesday finally announced the creation of a new post for investigations and inspections.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali tapped Mohammad Ali Niaz, a fellow Egyptian and U.N. insider who had previously been in charge of internal U.N. audits. Asked whether such an insider could be objective, spokesman Ahmad Fawzi told reporters Mr. Niaz is expected to take a "responsible and zealous look" at management problems.

A congressional critic immediately blasted the move as "window-dressing," republican Senator Larry Pressler said in a statement the investigator lacks the authority and independence to do a good job and will be using

"the same personnel, the same bureaucracy that has been part of the U.N.'s serious mismanagement problems."

The United States, the biggest contributor to the U.N. budget, has complained for years that the United Nations is poorly equipped to investigate corruption, waste and mismanagement. It has been pressing for appointment of an inspector general, similar to the post found in many U.S. federal agencies. Mr. Niaz will be called assistant secretary-general for inspections and investigations.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said that although Mr. Niaz will start his job Sept. 1, creation of a higher-level post with broader authority will not be proposed until the fall of 1994.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali assumed office two years ago with pledges to reform the sprawling bureaucracy, which employs more than 50,000 people worldwide.

The Clinton administration wants to show wary members of Congress it is taking a tough line against waste and corruption at the United Nations, to increase support for Washington to pay \$786 million in outstanding regular and peacekeeping U.N. dues.

Mr. Pressler has drafted legislation to withhold some of U.S. voluntary contributions unless the administration certifies that a permanent, independent U.N. investigator is appointed and conducts regular audits.

"The American taxpayer needs to be assured that his dollars are not being stolen or needlessly wasted by the U.N.," Mr. Pressler said.

Among the problems facing the United Nations is an investigation into alleged irregularities in bidding for helicopter contracts for U.N. peacekeeping. Eight top U.N. procurement officers have been suspended.

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Caspian countries agree to set up caviar cartel

NICOSIA (R) — The five countries sharing the Caspian Sea agreed Tuesday to set up a caviar cartel, Iran's IRNA news agency reported.

It said fishery officials from Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, meeting in the Iranian Caspian port of Bandar Anzali, agreed to coordinate marketing of the luxury delicacy around the world.

"Member states will in future get together to determine the caviar export quota for each country and will also study the possibility of joint exports," IRNA said.

An Iranian official contacted at the conference by telephone told Reuters the agreement was necessary to check a sharp slide in caviar prices since the Soviet Union broke up two years ago.

"Since the Soviet Union collapsed, a confused market and excessive and low-quality supply from the newly independent countries have led to a sharp decline in caviar prices," the official said.

He declined to say how much prices had fallen or to give figures on Iran's caviar exports.

"There are no laws governing the caviar industry (in the former Soviet republics). There is no control, not even in Russia," he said.

Iranian media have reported occasional cases of illicit trade in Iranian caviar. The official said they were very rare and punishable including jail — heavy fines deterred smugglers.

Iran's Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Forouzan told the conference Sunday that the Caspian held 90 per cent of the world's sturgeon, whose slightly salted raw eggs from the prized delicacy.

"Caspian sturgeon stocks have been severely hurt in recent years for various reasons, including industrial and agricultural pollution and unregulated fishing," he said.

The caviar cartel would be the first concrete result of an organisation of Caspian countries set up last year which also aims to promote cooperation in shipping and other areas.

MAN suffers sharp profit drop

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — German diversified engineering group MAN A.G. made net profit of only 230 million marks (\$137 million) in financial 1992-93, which ended June 30. That provisional result was down 45 per cent from 418 million marks in net profit for the previous financial year, the company said. Man blamed the lower profit of poor business conditions, marked price pressure, and the cost of making job cuts. It said the "depreciation of some important European currencies against the mark during the financial year considerably limited German industry's export ability. And the "positive tendencies" noted in the U.S. economy have not yet produced favourable effects for German export industries.

Russia and Poland sign deal on gas pipeline to West

WARSAW (R) — Russia and Poland signed an agreement Wednesday to build a 4,000 kilometre natural gas pipeline from northern Siberia across Polish territory to western Europe.

The pipeline, expected to be completed by 2010, will cost an estimated \$10 billion and is intended to ferry 67 billion cubic metres (2,370 billion cu. ft.) of gas a year from the Yamal Peninsula in Russia's Arctic north.

The accord, signed by Polish and Russian Deputy Prime Ministers Henryk Goryszewski and Oleg Lobov, crowned a visit to Warsaw by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"Carrying out this project will not only provide new impulse for our trade and economic cooperation but increase the energy security of many European countries, especially Poland," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference.

Polish President Lech Walesa, standing beside him in the garden of his belvedere palace residence, hailed the accord as a symbol of what he hoped were improving economic ties between Russia and Poland.

"This could be an example of a great investment enterprise which is mutually beneficial and important for the future," Mr. Walesa said.

The pipeline will stretch across Russia and Poland to Frankfurt on Oder on the Polish-German border.

Energy officials and diplomats in Warsaw said it will be an important gas supply route for Germany and could be extended to supply other west European countries.

The Russian state gas monopoly Gazprom said in January that extraction work on the Yamal fields was due to begin in 1997.

It said proven gas reserves indicated production levels of 180 billion to 200 billion cubic metres (6,387 billion to 7,074 billion cu. ft.) a year could be reached.

Polish Prime Minister Hanna Senczko dubbed the agreement one of the "investments of the century" last week and said Warsaw would gain from increased and cheaper gas supplies and new jobs while the Polish section is being built.

Poland will have access to 14 billion cubic metres (494 billion cu. ft.) of gas each year and work on the Polish section is due to start early next year.

Building this part of the pipeline will cost about \$3 billion. Investment details have not been announced but Poland hopes Western banks will help cover the costs.

M.B. Caradon buys majority of Pillar from RTZ for £800m

LONDON (AFP) — British construction materials group M.B. Caradon said Wednesday it has bought the main part of the RTZ Corporation's construction materials subsidiary RTZ Pillar for £800 million (\$1.2 billion).

The group said it would be making a £334 million rights issue to partly fund the operation, issuing one new share at 260 pence per share for every four old shares held.

The purchase, following the earlier sale of its stake in French packaging group Carand-Metalbox, was the largest deal struck this year between two private British companies, analysts said.

The group, which said it would

from now on be shortening its name to Caradon, has large cash reserves following the sale of Metalbox, which brought it £467 million.

According to a spokesman for RTZ, the deal involved 72 per cent of Pillar's turnover including all its electrical interests and most of its building materials interests and its North American subsidiary INDAL, equal to £81 million out of a total turnover of £1.36 billion, with the remainder still to be sold.

The purchase greatly increases the size of Caradon, which announced a pre-tax profit of £152.8 million in the first half of 1993, double the profit in the previous half.

Peanuts



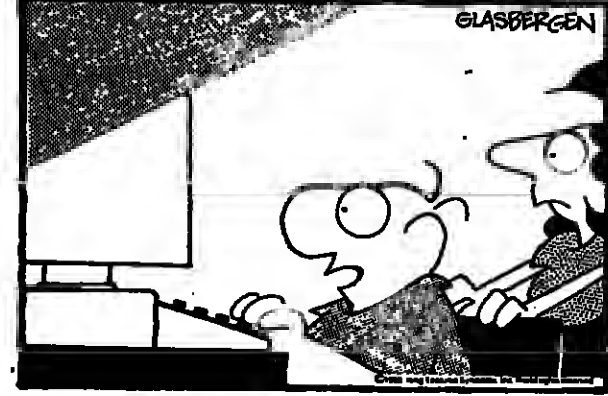
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

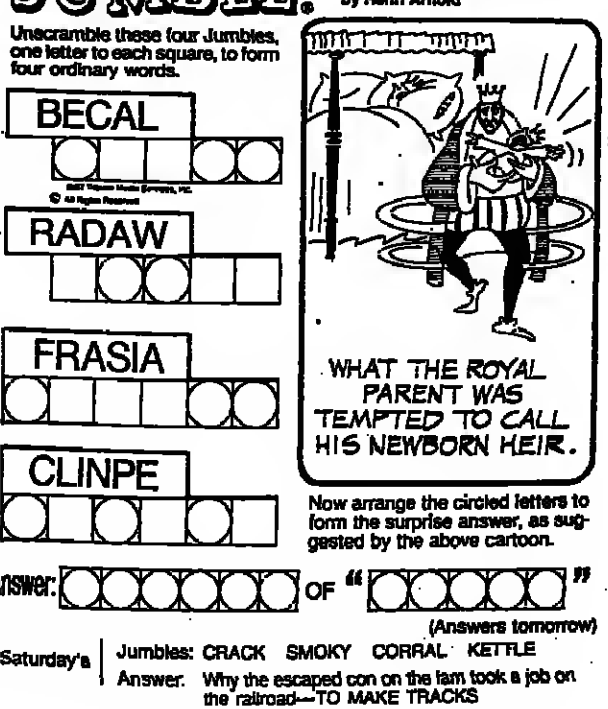


THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



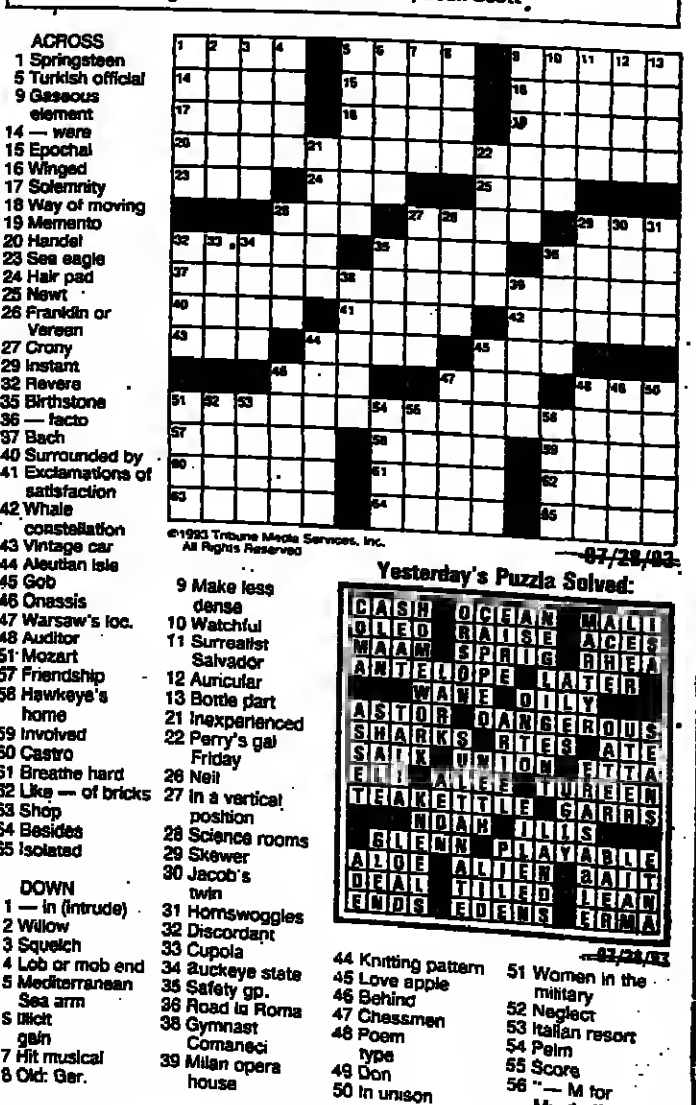
"I balanced the checkbook. We have \$2,500 or \$250 or \$2.50."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Joan Scott



Foreign investors cut back, delay Egypt plans

Jordan likely to achieve 6% growth this year

Dr. Halaqah added that the country achieved a very modest growth in exports as it amounted only to a mere six per cent.

Reiterating that position, Pakistan officials pointed out

| Other Currencies | | Date: 25/6/1995 |
|------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Currency | Bid | Offer |
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.8130 | 1.8430 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.03954 | 0.04045 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1810 | 0.1860 |
| Kuwaiti Qinar | 2.2550 | 2.3200 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1875 | 0.1892 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2150 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7640 | 1.8210 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1575 | 0.1892 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.29175 | 0.32750 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.3425 | 1.3725 |

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Olympics 2000 Manchester Games could regenerate city

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The bid organization says Manchester offers the International Olympic Committee (IOC) a compact, risk-free games where the athletes would come first. Although the bid is technically excellent, Manchester is arguably the least glamorous of the five candidates.

But bid leader Bob Scott rejects this as a significant weakness, insisting the city is happy to be judged on its technical merit. "We don't believe it is a glamour parade," he says.

Manchester's bid concentrates

competition in 15 of the 25 Olympic sports in the centre of this sports-mad city. Athletes would be able to walk from their village along a canal to the city centre, the main stadium complex and venues for 10 sports.

Transport and security would be no problem, organizers say. Manchester has a large local rail network and the metro link high railway which would link venues.

Police are used to dealing with the 50,000-strong crowds who watch the Manchester United soccer club. Britain's anti-terrorist experience built up over 20 years dealing with the Irish Republic Army would also be put to good use.

After losing the race for the 1996 games to the U.S. city of Atlanta, Mancunians — the 2.4 million people who inhabit this northern English city — believe Britain deserves to host the games again.

London staged the 1908 and 1948 Olympics and British athletes have never missed games. "Britain is good son of the Olympic movement whose time has come," says Scott.

"You would choose as if you didn't want to take any risk. We will get it right. We believe we have the makings of classic games."

The athletes would be housed in a village stretching in a "dog bone" shape from the city centre to the Olympic centre, containing the main stadium, the badminton and gymnastics arena and velodrome. Every athlete would have a single bedroom.

Four universities, containing 10,000 rooms, would be used to house the media. Cruise liners would line the Manchester ship canal for spectators' guests.

Manchester already has 28,000 hotel beds and a further 7,500 would be provided by 2000. All hotels have signed a charter guaranteeing no price increases specifically for the games.

Margaret Thatcher showed little enthusiasm four years ago. Her successor as prime minister John Major is a sports fan and has stressed his support. We will be in Monte Carlo September 23 to put Manchester's case to the IOC before the final vote.

Major has pledged \$110 million to fund the bid and build key facilities. If the bid is successful, the government would undertake expenditure on venues and organisation.

Scott believes Manchester could take a \$92 million profit after generating \$1.85 billion in revenue.

If successful, city authorities

New charges in France's soccer scandal

PARIS (R) — Valenciennes club Chairman Michel Coencas rejected Tuesday charges by one of his former players that he was involved in a soccer bribery scandal entering on European champions Marseille.

Former Valenciennes player Jorge Burruchaga has accused Coencas of silencing an alleged bribery by Marseille and use it to try force the European champions to settle for a draw.

Burruchaga's accusations came three days before the French Football League was due to announce possible sanctions in the scandal, which has made headlines in the French press through the summer.

Burruchaga, a former Argentine World Cup star, is under investigation with two other Valenciennes players suspected of taking money from Marseille to play poorly and lose the match on May 20.

In a Buenos Aires interview with the French magazine France-Football published Tuesday, Burruchaga said Valenciennes officials knew of the bribery before the match.

"They preferred to wait and see how events developed to use them to the best of their interests. The rumour has it that Valenciennes officials later tried to negotiate a draw in return for their silence," he said.

A win virtually ensured Marseille their fifth consecutive league title. A draw could have avoided Valenciennes relegation to second division. Marseille won the game 2-1.

"Burruchaga's accusations don't bother me. If anyone has proven he was dishonest, it is he," Coencas told Reuters.

"I told (Burruchaga) that the only clean people in this affair are the Valenciennes officials," he said.

Adding new twists to the complex case, Burruchaga said Coencas phoned him late in June in Argentina to announce that a traitor would brief him on the case on behalf of both Valenciennes and Marseille.

He said he later had a phone call from a person, whom he declined to identify, claiming to speak on behalf of Marseille chairman and former minister Bernard Tapie and told him what version of the scandal to give the judge investigating the case.

This alleged version would have cleared Jean-Pierre Bernes, Tapie's right-hand man who is under investigation.

Inter hope Dutch magic can work for them

ROME (AFP) — Internazionale have gone Dutch in the hope of finally breaking AC Milan's domination of the Italian football championship.

The signing of Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk from Ajax Amsterdam represented the Serie A's most significant change in personnel during a recession-dampened summer of transfer activity.

And coinciding as it did with the departure of two out of three of Milan's own Dutch stars, the arrival of Jonk and Bergkamp at the San Siro Stadium the two clubs share, has served to underline that the title race which starts on Sunday will be one of the most open in years.

Juventus, Parma, Sampdoria and Lazio are all hoping they can take capitalise as Fabio Capello seeks to rebuild his team without its lynchpin, Frank Rijkaard, or the inspirational qualities of Ruud Geulit.

Rijkaard is back in Holland with Ajax — already filling Jonk's old boots to great effect. Geulit was unwilling to take a pay-cut and has teamed up with England captain David Platt at Sampdoria.

Milan, champions for the last two seasons, retain a formidable playing staff, bolstered by the arrival on loan of Denmark's Euro '92 hero Brian Laudrup and Romanian striker Florin Radu from relegated Fiorentina and Brescia.

But they will start the season without Marco Van Basten, recovering from ankle surgery until at least November, and international winger Gianluigi Lentini, who nearly died in a car accident last month.

Capello will also have to work out what went wrong at the end of last season when his team came



Paul Gascoigne

as close as possible to throwing away a seemingly unassailable lead in the championship.

Only one of their last 12 league matches was won and although they held on to scrape the title, another mediocre performance saw the European Cup slip from their grasp.

If, as some suggest, most of the problems stem from the waning powers of the once-masterly sweeper Franco Baresi, now 33, then Milan fans may have to get used to being second best.

For without Rijkaard parolling the midfield, the club's defence will be more exposed than ever.

Capello readily admits the severity of losing a player he described as the club's most consistently effective since he took over from Arrigo Sacchi.

"That is my biggest regret," he said. "I tried hard to persuade him to stay but there was nothing I could do."

Despite Parma's impressive end-of-season run and Cup Winners Cup triumph and the potential of Lazio, Capello still sees Inter and Juventus as the principal obstacles in the way of a third consecutive title.

"They are our traditional rivals and they are still a class above Sampdoria and Lazio, who everybody has been talking about."

Without a single big-name signing, it was a strange summer for Juventus. With the club's owners, Fiat, preparing to lay off thousands of car workers, it would not have been financially or morally appropriate.

But Giovanni Trapattoni's side — which managed to win the UEFA Cup in a "disappointing"



Dennis Bergkamp

term — was the equal of Milan for the first and last thirds of last season, and with a more settled atmosphere could realise its potential.

Trapattoni is expecting great things of Germany's Andreas Moller now that he is no longer competing for his place with Platt.

The Croatian Zoran Ban should help sharpen the attack and any team that includes the imagination of Roberto Baggio should not want for chances.

A cash shortage has also further weakened Torino, who could not entice Enzo Scifo, their mid-field playmaker, to stay. He is now with Monaco and veteran Uruguayan Enzo Francescoli looks a poor substitute.



Marco Van Basten

Christie's coach slams drugs rumours

LONDON (AP) — Olympic and world 100 metres champion Linford Christie has proved he's the fastest man around. But the sprint star known as "the clean machine" can shake off rumours that he's been taking drugs.

"Linford is 33 and people say he must be on drugs," Britain's national track coach Frank Dick said. "It's stupid rumours. It's those that we have to put up with now."

"It seems that Linford cannot turn around these days without having to take a drug test."

"Because he is a very high profile athlete, I would think Linford must be random tested at least three or four times a year on top of all the meeting where he wins so regularly."

Australia set for Davis Cup clash Becker loses; Lendl, Chang prevail

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australian captain Neale Fraser said Wednesday he will take five players to India for next month's Davis Cup semifinal to guard against injury and illness.

Fraser announced a six-man squad — Richard Fromberg, Wally Masur, Jason Stoltenberg, Todd Woodbridge, Jamie Morgan and Mark Woodford — for the September 24-26 semi-final on grass at Chandigarh, north of Delhi.

One of the squad will be cut after the U.S. Open, which gets underway in New York next week.

None of the Australian players has previously been to India. And Fraser has sought friends in high places and consulted leading Australian sportsmen in an effort to beat India in the expected steamy conditions.

Security is also a prime concern in an area of political unrest where the Australian foreign affairs department advises visitors to be wary.

To ensure the Australians remain in good health for the tie, Australian Olympic team doctor Brian Sando will accompany the team and 1,000 litres (261 gallons) of bottled water will be transported to India.

The Aussies leave for Asia on September 16 but will take at least three days to arrive in Chandigarh because of enforced stopovers in Singapore and Delhi.

Fraser said the U.S. Open would be the last chance for

members of the Australian squad to press for selection.

Lendl defeats Raoux: In Scheenstadt, N.Y., top seed Ivan Lendl, showing sparks of the brilliance that netted him eight Grand Slam titles, defeated Guillaume Raoux of France 7-5, 6-3 Tuesday in the opening round of the O.T.B. International Open.

The match which lasted 1 hour, 36 minutes, featured short rallies between Lendl, who prefers a patient baseline game, and Raoux, who favours the serve-and-volley.

Lendl, the top seed in the tournament, showed he was the more potent, winning 75 per cent of his first serve points.

He served nine aces, six in the first set and two in game one alone. Raoux's five in the match. But Lendl dropped a key game in the second set with back-to-back double-faults.

"I haven't been playing well this summer and I have to improve quite a bit to have a chance" at next week's U.S. Open, said Lendl, who is coming off a losing effort against Andre Agassi at last week's Volvo International.

"My immediate goal is to start playing a little better," Lendl said.

Becker is upset and complains: In Commack, New York, second-seeded Boris Becker lost to Russia's unseeded Andrei Chesnokov, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the first round of the \$800,000 Waldham Handler Cup Tuesday and the German did not go quietly into the night.

Becker, the fourth-ranked tennis player, was outplayed through most of the match as Chesnokov,

ranked 25th, took advantage of his numerous errors.

"I had trouble with the umpire (Richard Kaufman, U.S.)," Becker said, "and it isn't the first time I've had trouble with him. There must have been 20 bad calls on both sides of the net and he didn't have the guts to overrule one of them."

Becker said he also asked the tournament director to allow him to withdraw from the tournament last Friday but was refused.

"I was tired and knew I wouldn't be 100 per cent if I played here. I asked them to use the wild card they gave me for someone else."

Tournament director Wendy Parr said: "Becker asked for a wild card entry three weeks ago and we advertised him being here. He asked to withdraw last Friday, the day we were making the draw. We couldn't do that at the last minute."

Eight-seeded Michael Chang of the United States fought off Christian Ruud of Norway, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.

In the afternoon matches unseeded Arnaud Boetsch of France upset sixth seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia, the tournament defender while top-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden and fourth-seeded Michael Stich of Germany advanced.

Edberg, ranked third in the world, started a final week of preparation for defence of his U.S. Open next week, by whipping American Brad Gilbert, 6-3, 6-0.

Stich, still seeking a hardcourt title this year, rallied for his victory.

— A 65-year-old man in a white shirt and dark trousers was seen running through a field of tall grass. He was carrying a bag and looking over his shoulder. He was followed by a group of people who were shouting and waving their hands. The man ran for about 100 yards before he was caught by the police. He was taken to the hospital and is now recovering from his injuries.

GOREN BRIDGE

PLAY THE ODDS

| North-South vulnerable. South deals. | NORTH | EAST |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | ♠ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 | ♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 |
| | ♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 | ♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 |
| | ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 | ♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 |
| | ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 | ♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 |

The bidding: North 1♣, South 1♥, North 2♥, South 3♥, North 4♥, South 4♥, North 5♥, South 5♥, North 6♥, South 6♥, North 7♥, South 7♥.

Game lead: South of ♠.

Here's a chance for you to test your analytical powers. Assume that you have reached a perfectly normal three no trump and West, in response to partner's overall, dutifully leads the seven of spades. Plan the play.

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Oliga Sokolova, Svetlana Rubenkova, Aleksandra Koliseva and Valentina Polhanova of Russia on their way to a gold medal in the women's 50km team time trial at the World Cycling Championships (AFP photo)

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| CONCORD | | PLAZA | | PHILADELPHIA | | Nabil Al Mashini Theatre | | AHLAN THEATRE | |
| Last Action Hero | | Adel Imam in | | Franky and Jany | | presents a play entitled: Al Iim Nuron | | Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play: | |
| Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | | Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal | | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | | A popular political comedy. Actors: Abber Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shahr, Fuad Shomail. In addition to other comedians. Every night at 8:15. Tickets are sold all day. | | Arab Summit Conference | |
| America Shikabika | | play (Arabic) | | On Thursday and Friday special show for children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons. | | | | | |
| Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15 | | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30 | | | | | | | |

Lebanon rejects Israeli conditions for peace treaty

Combined agency dispatches

BEIRUT — Lebanon Wednesday rejected Israel's conditions for withdrawing Israeli forces from South Lebanon, saying the proposals were at odds with the principle of peace talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel was willing to withdraw and sign a peace treaty if Beirut sent its army to the border and disarmed resistance fighters so peace prevailed for six to nine months.

An Israeli official said Mr. Rabin told a parliament committee on Tuesday another condition was that a 3,000-strong Israeli-backed militia be integrated into the Lebanese army.

"His position is that if the Lebanese army will... deploy forces along the security zone, disarm Hizbollah and thus there will be no terrorist activity for a duration of six to nine months — Israel is willing not only to withdraw its forces but to sign a peace treaty," the official said.

"A third condition is that the SLA be integrated into the Lebanese army," he added.

"We think Mr. Rabin's statement is a negative statement," Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Boueiz told reporters, comparing the conditions with principles at the start of peace talks in Madrid in 1991.

"If this talk is serious we think it is a clear retreat from the basis of the Madrid conference and a retreat from earlier ideas linked to the atmosphere of the next round (of talks)."

Asked if the government would disarm Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas fighting to force Israeli troops out of South Lebanon, Mr. Boueiz said:

"As long as there is an Israeli occupation of Lebanese land resistance remains a right to all sons of Lebanon."

The government says it will disarm Hizbollah and guerrilla attacks will cease once Israeli troops withdraw from the south.

Mr. Boueiz said Lebanon had expected some possibility of progress at the peace talks in Washington but Mr. Rabin's statement contradicted fixed principles and what was already agreed on.

He reiterated that Beirut would only agree to a joint military committee with Israel to schedule the withdrawal.

An estimated 1,000 Israeli troops and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia holds the 15-kilometre deep "security zone," set up in 1985 to stop attacks on north Israel.

Israel has vowed to avenge the killing by Hizbollah of nine soldiers in the zone last Thursday, the bloodiest Israeli toll in a single day among its troops there since 1985.

A week-long Israeli blitz on the south was launched after the killing of seven soldiers last month.

About 150 people were killed, more than 600 wounded and 300,000 fled their homes.

Israeli officials said AFP that Rabin made the conditional withdrawal proposal during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East last month.

"If these conditions are met, not only are we prepared to abide by (U.N.) Security Council Resolution 425 but also to sign a peace treaty with Lebanon," Mr. Rabin was quoted as telling Mr. Christopher.

The resolution, dating back to March 1978, calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon.

Mr. Rabin charged Monday that Syria and the United Nations had earlier this month prevented a large contingent of Lebanese troops from moving into South Lebanon to curb anti-Israeli attacks.

Lebanese Labour Minister Abdulah Al Amin said Wednesday that Israel planned to launch a new assault and warned that a confrontation with Syria in Lebanon would destroy the Middle East peace process.



A week before start of the next round of Middle East peace talks, Dor Golan, a new Jewish settlement created last week on Israeli occupied Golan

Heights was connected Wednesday to electricity and water supply. The settlement has seven caravans where the settlers live (AFP photo)

Israelis move into new Golan settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two dozen Israelis moved into a new settlement on the Golan Wednesday, the first since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin voiced readiness to pull out of part of the Heights a year ago, settlers said.

"It's a holiday for the Golan plateau today. A new settlement is born," said Eli Malka, chairman of the Golan settlement committee.

"Dor (generation) Golan is our answer to Rabin," he said. "It's a message to our government, to (Syrian President Hafez) Al Assad and to all the Israeli people," Mr. Malka said.

Fourteen bachelors and four families set up home in seven caravans at the site after they were hooked up to water, electricity and sewage services.

The Defence Ministry announced that "Dor Golan" was not illegal since the mobile homes were placed inside the boundaries of an existing settlement called Shaal and thereby did not require a permit.

More than 12,000 Israelis have settled on the strategic Heights since Israel seized them from Syria in 1967 and brought them under Israeli law in 1981.

Mr. Rabin is prepared to withdraw from part of the settlement in exchange for total peace with Syria which demands a total pull-out.

On Aug. 18 the media reported the mobile homes had been set up. Despite the settlers' publicity stated intention that the site would eventually be declared a new settlement, authorities allowed the structures to remain in place.

In July police stopped settlers from hauling five disguised mobile homes to the Golan to start a new settlement.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said: "All I can tell you is that there is no approval from any government agencies to build a new settlement on the Golan Heights." He refused to elaborate.

Jewish settlers have been waging a campaign against possible withdrawal from the area.

Israel and Syria have been stalled over a land-for-peace deal at 21-month-old Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Rabin said Tuesday that Israel would not withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, even in exchange for peace with Syria.

Asked before the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee whether he was prepared to pull out of the entire Golan in exchange for peace, Mr. Rabin said: "No."

"In exchange for total peace with Syria, I am ready for a total withdrawal on the Golan but not from the Golan," Mr. Rabin said.

King Fahd reportedly poised to implement more reforms

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd is expected to implement more political reforms soon to follow up his decision to appoint a national assembly, diplomats said Wednesday.

"The king promised citizens to move very quickly with appointing regional councils," a Western diplomat in Riyadh said by telephone.

King Fahd was quoted as saying on Sunday night: "The provisional system will be announced soon, and God willing, the same level of accuracy and good choice will be followed."

He was referring to four decrees he issued Friday night, including the appointment of 60 men to a shura (consultative) council which Riyadh promised as part of political reforms following the 1991 Gulf war.

Senior members of the royal family have traditionally controlled the country's vast oil wealth, its huge foreign assets and its political and military affairs.

The new council gives ordinary Saudis a formal say in running the kingdom's affairs for the first time in its 61-year history.

The king did not say how the provisional system would operate but Western diplomats said it was expected to be built along a plan announced in March.

King Fahd said then the government would probably divide the kingdom into 14 regions, each with its own appointed shura council.

Provincial councils would have between 12 and 25 members, depending on the size and population of each region.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, is currently divided into four administrative provinces. About 3.5 million of its 17 million population are expatriates.

Western diplomats have welcomed the king's decision to move on political reforms although they fall short of Western concepts of democracy.

"It is a very big move and a very big step," one diplomat said. "It'll be very interesting to watch and follow the shura council as it develops in the next few months."

The king is expected to attend the council's first session which will convene when "administrative matters" are completed, the council's chief, former Justice Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Ibrahim Ben Jabr, said last week.

Several diplomats said the 60-member shura represented well the different tribal, religious, professional and other sectors of Saudi society.

"Everywhere I've been, I heard Saudis praise the people chosen to the shura. The people in general are pleased," one diplomat said.

Arab and Western diplomats said the new council, which will not hold public sessions, included five men from the religious establishment, 30 holders of doctorates, members of large tribes in the kingdom, representatives of the Muslim Shiite minority, retired and serving military officers and some senior government officials.

The king, who is also prime minister, limited the term of the cabinet to four years.

Ambassador attacks reports

Saudi Arabia Wednesday condemned a New York Times series of reports alleging massive financial mismanagement and decline in its economic position.

Saudi Ambassador to London Ghazi Algaosabi said in a statement that the reports, which have joined financial markets in the Middle East, were inaccurate and did not present a true picture of the Saudi economy.

"The reports I read in the press are full of inaccuracies and they do not represent a true picture of the Saudi economy," Mr. Algaosabi said in a statement sent to Reuters.

Mr. Algaosabi offered a list of 10 economic indicators including oil sector growth, gross domestic output and banking activity which he said the stories neglected.

In two articles published on Sunday and Monday the New York Times said Saudi Arabia had spent much of its oil wealth on unrestrained spending, huge military purchases and irregular banking practices — severely running down its reserves.

King Fahd denounced the reports as a "smear campaign."

'Arafat agreed to Gaza first in exchange for \$700m'

YASSER ARAFAT agreed to the Gaza/Jericho first proposal after being promised \$700 million by the U.S. Japan, and a consortium of European countries, according to Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the rejectionist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The London-based, Saudi-owned Ashraf Al Awwat, which interviewed Hawatmeh in Damascus, also quoted Abbas Zaki, a member of Fatah's central committee, as saying that the PLO was scrambling to cover debts totalling \$125 million.

Speaking from Amman, Zaki said Arafat is attempting to restore the PLO's financial balance by selling off its holdings and properties, including investments in land and buildings it had acquired for use as "embassies."

Hawatmeh charged Arafat with responsibility for the "collapse of Palestinian institutions," and said "a large number" of PLO executive committee members are now considering a collective resignation to protest the financial mismanagement and Arafat's monopoly on policy-making.

Two senior PLO veterans, Paris-based poet Mahmoud Darwish and PLO representative in Lebanon Shafik Hout, sent political tremors through the Palestinian world when they resigned from the executive committee this month.

A mass resignation is considered likely to seriously threaten Arafat's leadership and, in the absence of any clear line of succession, to throw the PLO into a state of confusion.

In an interview with Al Hayat, another London-based Arabic daily, Hout alluded to corruption within the PLO.

Noting that the Palestine National Fund had not met for the past two years, he said its president had been kept "out of sight" since his appointment and "has not said a word about the PLO's financial collapse."

Hout said the Palestinians are "approaching the stage of (making) decisions of destiny," and he could "no longer accept responsibility for decisions issued in our name without our knowledge."

"The clever statements we hear from Arafat's so-called advisers and their attempt to create confusion between tactics and strategy do not fool anyone anymore," he said.

"Like the rest of our people, we have come to sense the danger posed by the policies of risk and indifference pursued by the leadership in the name of the executive committee."

While bitterly critical of the Palestinian leadership, Hout expressed confidence that the PLO would survive to achieve its goals — "the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the closure of the refugee file with the return of all the refugees to their free, sovereign country."

Darwish was not spoken of his reasons for resigning, but Al Hayat quoted informed Palestinian sources as saying he objected to the Gaza/Jericho-first decision because he believes it will block the transfer of power to the Palestinians in all of the territories — *The Jerusalem Post*

U.N. team in Iraq to monitor missile tests

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Three U.N. experts arrived in Baghdad Wednesday to monitor missile tests as part of a stopgap agreement that ended Iraq's latest standoff with the Security Council.

"We are here to continue monitoring missile tests," team leader Guy Martelle, an American, told reporters on arrival.

Mr. Martelle said he and two British missile experts who make up the team would stay in Iraq "as long as needed."

Earlier this month, U.N. inspectors scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire installed six monitoring cameras at Al Rafah and Al Yawm Al Azim, two test sites close to Baghdad.

A standoff over the cameras in July brought U.S. threats of fresh military action against Iraq.

But, in line with the interim agreement resolving the standoff, the cameras were switched off pending the outcome of technical talks.

U.N. and Iraq officials said last week they expected talks on future monitoring of Baghdad's weapons programme to begin in New York on Aug. 31.

Mr. Martelle's team is the 62nd sent to Baghdad by the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) which is implementing the terms of the ceasefire.

Mr. Martelle expected to meet his Iraqi counterparts later Wednesday "to map out exactly what we are going to do."

He said his monitoring tasks would not be confined to certain locations in Iraq. "We are going to wherever the missile tests occur."

Asked whether he had been notified in advance by Iraq of any impending missile tests, he said: "We expect that there will be (tests) and we will monitor them as they occur."

Mr. Martelle said he would visit Al Rafah and Al Yawm Al Azim and expected the Iraqis to carry out tests there. "That's where we will go. Sometimes tests occur in these locations," he said.

He said he would also carry out any other tasks that would be assigned to him by UNSCOM

during his stay in Iraq.

Under the interim arrangement, the Iraqi government must ask for U.N. observation of any testing conducted at the Al Rafah and Yawm Al Azim missile centres.

The interim agreement was reached in July after a lengthy standoff between Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission, and the Iraqis, who had refused to allow the installation of monitoring cameras.

The two sites are designed for medium and short-range missile development. Under the Gulf war ceasefire terms, Iraq is prohibited from developing missiles that can travel farther than 150 kilometres.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said on Wednesday Iraq was not going simply to offer concessions.

"Certainly, Iraq goes... not to offer concessions to the aggressors," it said in a commentary. Iraq wanted "to snatch one of its legitimate rights," it added, in reference to Baghdad's demand for the sanctions against it to be lifted.

Iraqi demands include, the lifting of the embargo, respect of Iraq's sovereignty, an immediate end to Western imposed "no-fly" zones and a pledge from the Security Council to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in the whole region.

Iraq has pledged to disclose the secret network of its arms suppliers but has made clear that such concessions on its part will only be made if the Security Council reviews sanctions.

Al Thawra warned Iraqis not to expect smooth talks. "The aggressors," it said, "persistent attempts to distort facts and create crises," it said.

The Iraqi delegation would "calculate its steps in an accurate manner" and provide figures, facts and evidence on Baghdad's compliance with ceasefire resolutions, it added.

Baghdad says it has honoured most if not all of its ceasefire obligations and demands that the Security Council allow its embargoed oil to flow to market freely.

U.N. weapons experts say it is far from full compliance.

Arafat, assailed on all sides, plays his hand out to the last

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Yasser Arafat has wriggled his way out of more crises than he can count during the last quarter-century. But as Middle East peace talks bog down, he is now under attack from his own people and seems to be looking to his Israeli foes to rescue him.

In recent days, criticism from within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of Mr. Arafat's peace talks strategy and his high-handed style of leadership, a bone of contention for years, has reached unprecedented levels.

On Tuesday, one of his military commanders publicly told him to resign. In the last week, two highly respected members of the movement's ruling Executive Committee have resigned and insiders say more may follow.

The PLO chairman has quarrelled fiercely with the Palestinian delegates negotiating with Israel.

On Thursday, the 18-member Executive Committee is scheduled to meet in Tunis, where the PLO leadership in exile has its headquarters, to discuss the crisis.

It seems certain to be a stormy session. The outcome could well have a major impact in the U.S.-sponsored peace talks due to resume in Washington Aug. 31.

After 21 months of largely fruitless negotiations, the Palestinians have precious little to show for the concessions they have had to make under U.S. pressure. On the other hand, Syria and Jordan appear to be making some headway.

In the peace talks, pressure has been building on Mr. Arafat since he accepted a formula saying that the basis for negotiations would be an interim

period of limited self-rule for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip not the independent state the Palestinians want.

This has alienated many of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, who have been waging an uprising against Israeli rule since December 1987. That, in turn, has bolstered Muslim fundamentalists who oppose the peace process.

In the face of Israeli stonewalling, Mr. Arafat has had to make concessions just to stay in the game. The more concessions he's made, the greater the grassroots pressure has grown to pull out of the talks.

These convulsions peaked earlier this month when Mr. Arafat, without consulting the Palestinian negotiating team or anyone else outside his coterie of advisers, presented proposals which lay the foundation for a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule.

He seemed to be prepared to settle for self-rule initially only for the turbulent Gaza Strip, a hotbed of extremism which the Israelis would like to be rid of anyway, and the West Bank city of Jericho.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Copenhagen on Tuesday: "The Palestinians have expressed willingness to try autonomy in Gaza first, and I think the Israeli government is ready to do so."

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Mr. Arafat's critics believe that in return for settling for self-rule initially only for Gaza and Jericho, Mr. Arafat hopes Israel will recognise the PLO as a full negotiating partner.

That would give him greater political clout and ensure his place in history as "Mr. Palestine," the embodiment of the Palestinian struggle.

One of Mr. Arafat's greatest problems in recent years has been the emergence of a new generation of leaders in the occupied territories who are challenging his authority.

Some Palestinians feel that he believes cutting a deal with Israel would undercut his challenges and perhaps inject some life into the peace talks.

But this risks a violent reaction from Mr. Arafat's opponents, who consider anything less than an independent sovereign state a betrayal.

It also risks a backlash from hard-line Israelis, who have made clear they are prepared to fight Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government if it gives an inch to the Arabs.

All this leaves Mr. Arafat, who has dominated the PLO by guile, largesse and muscle for the last 23 years, in a precarious position in which he must gamble for his survival. His dictatorial methods and

his policies have long been criticised. But this has intensified since his support for Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait drove the oil-rich Gulf states to cut off funds and plunged the PLO into a financial crisis.

Mr. Arafat has been forced to take severe austerity measures, including slashing payments to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in refugee camps and the families of slain guerrillas, further eroding support.

All this has rekindled accusations of corruption and gross mismanagement, as well as demands for more democratic debate and collective decision-making.

PLO officials in Tunis say the movement there is demoralised and disheartened as never before as Mr. Arafat fires large numbers of staff while the movement tears itself apart from within.

COLUMN

Fergie is in therapy and proud of it

NEW YORK (R) — The Duchess of York, estranged wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, says she went into therapy after photos of her sunbathing topless and embracing a U.S. businessman appeared in newspapers around the world a year ago. The duchess, speaking in a television interview on First Person With Maria Shriver, said she was proud of the fact that she had sought professional help. "I go to therapy, and I'm very proud of that. I love when people say to me, 'you admit you go to therapy?' I say 'yeah, of course I do.' I do two hours a week," she said in the interview scheduled to be broadcast on the NBC Network Thursday. The duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, separated last March from Prince Andrew, brother of heir to the British throne Prince Charles. Prince Andrew and Sarah, who is widely known as Fergie, are both 33 and were married in 1986. She said the sessions started just after the photos were published in August 1992 of her topless and embracing U.S. executive John Bryan at a villa swimming pool near St. Tropez in southern France. She said she was annoyed by criticism that her children were with her at the time. "I would not have done anything which is going to jeopardise their happiness. And Andrew was fully aware that John was with me on that trip," she said. She also said the frequent separations from Prince Andrew, a navy officer, put a strain on her marriage. She calculated they were together 42 days in the first year they were married. She said despite all the turmoil, she still loves the royal family. "I won't say a word about them, because I love them. They're my family," she said. "They were very kind to me and very tolerant and very patient. And I'll always protect them."

Rodney King sent for treatment

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Rodney King was charged with drunken driving and sent to a treatment programme for alcoholism. Mr. King has had four brushes with the law since his 1991 videotaped beating by four police officers who pulled him over for speeding, sparked a national outcry. On Saturday, Mr. King was arrested after witnesses said he crashed his car into a wall and he was found to have a blood alcohol level over the legal limit. The 28-year-old faces up to six months in jail for the latest charges, but he is currently free on parole for a 1990 armed robbery conviction. He has been ordered to spend at least 60 days in a residential treatment programme and is subject to arrest if he leaves the centre.

Singer faces drunken driving charge

ASPEN, Colorado (R) — U.S. folk singer John Denver has been charged with drunken driving following his arrest at the weekend in the exclusive ski resort of Aspen, police said. Officers stopped Denver Sunday morning after they saw him weaving in his 1963 Porsche. Aspen Police Sergeant Leon Murray said. Police said Denver, a long-time Aspen resident, politely cooperated and failed a roadside sobriety test. The 49-year-old Denver, one of the top-selling recording artists in the United States, is well known for songs such as Rocky Mountain High and Sunshine on My Shoulders. He was arrested and taken to police headquarters, where he registered a 0.14 per cent blood-alcohol level, officials said. The limit under Colorado law is 0.10 per cent. Denver told police he had been dining and drinking with friends at a restaurant. Sgt. Murray said Denver, who has no prior arrest record, was released on his own recognisance.

British woman revives goldfish with kiss of life

LONDON (R) — British pensioner Jessie Rayner says she revived her dying goldfish Grumpy by giving him the kiss of life and popping him in fresh water with an aspirin. "He could hardly flip his little fins and his gills had almost stopped working," the 74-year-old pensioner told the Guardian newspaper. Ignoring fish physiology, she tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. "I gently breathed into his mouth and at the same time I gave him a heart massage by rubbing his tummy with my fingers," Ms. Rayner said. "It seemed to revive him, but just to make certain I put him in a fresh tank of water with an oxygen tablet and an aspirin. Now he is right as rain."